

"We appreciate a balanced budget that does not include any new tax increases."

Roger Geiger, National Federation of Independent Business, Ohio

"The final version of the state budget that is heading to Gov. Kasich's desk is one of the best budgets we have seen in a while in Ohio... there was solid spending restraint and efforts to contain Medicaid spending -- the 'Pac-Man' of Ohio's budget. These are all noteworthy accomplishments."

Greg Lawson, Buckeye Institute

"Tuition freeze benefits students and universities... the state-mandated cap has helped both students and universities and should continue for at least two more years... the tuition freeze is a good strategy worth continuing."

Toledo Blade Editorial

"Ohio's House did the right thing Thursday by overturning Gov. John Kasich's veto of a budget amendment written to protect the finances of counties and transit authorities, including the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. The state Senate would be wise to follow suit."

Cleveland Plain Dealer Editorial

"Ohio's farmers and rural communities will benefit from reforms to the state's farmland tax policy, culminating a three-year effort led by Ohio Farm Bureau. The reforms were included in the new state budget signed by Gov. John Kasich."

Ohio Farm Bureau

"Ohio's leaders understand that treatment works and people recover when they have access to the necessary treatment and recovery support services."

Cheri L. Walter, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities

"The budget sends Ohio families a strong message that our elected leaders are committed to empowering parents to choose the learning environment where their children can reach their full potential. We applaud Governor Kasich and the Ohio legislature for their work, and we are grateful this budget recognizes the important role school choice is playing in the lives of thousands of Ohioans."

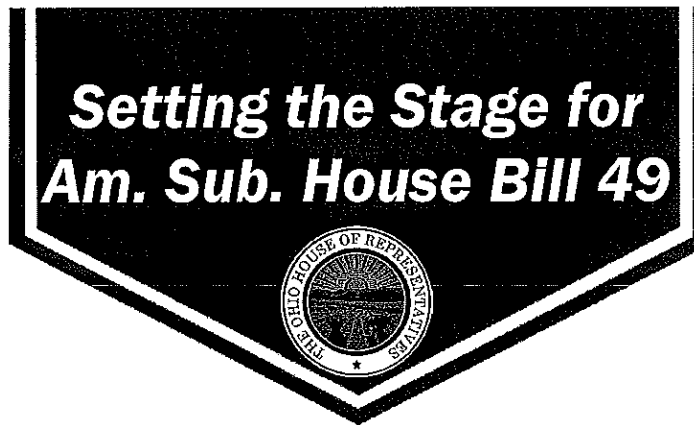
Kaleigh Lemaster, School Choice Ohio

"Pregnancy help centers are essential to building a culture of life here in Ohio because they offer women not only material assistance, but often emotional, medical, and educational support. By providing diapers, formula, cribs, parenting classes, prenatal care, counseling and mentorship, these centers are showing us what it means to care for the whole person and what it really means to be pro-life."

Ohio Right to Life

"For too long the cumbersome process of being required to file in multiple jurisdictions has burdened businesses across Ohio. We believe this proposal is the right step in our state's quest to create a streamlined tax code and spur a positive business climate for employers."

Gordon Gough, Ohio Council of Retail Merchants



No single piece of legislation reflects a caucus' priorities more than the state budget. Under Republican control over the past six years, Ohio has rebounded economically thanks in large part to the kinds of priorities that have been outlined in previous budgets:

- Over \$5 billion in tax relief for families and businesses
- Bolstering the rainy day fund to more than \$2 billion
- More funding for Ohio's schools

That is a far cry from the tax-and-spend largesse of the Democrats who once reigned over state government in Ohio:

- \$8 billion budget deficit
- Unemployment over 9 percent
- 350,000 jobs lost
- Less than a dollar in the rainy day fund

The result? Since 2011, Ohioans have created around 460,000 private-sector jobs and the state's unemployment rate has been cut almost in half.

Underlying any single, specific provision in any of the past three Republican-led budgets, however, is the unwavering commitment to fiscal responsibility. Ohio has the people, resources, talent and work ethic to succeed, innovate and move our state forward. It simply needs a government that is not overly burdensome, leads by example and lives within its means.

Am. Sub. House Bill 49 remains true to these tenets.

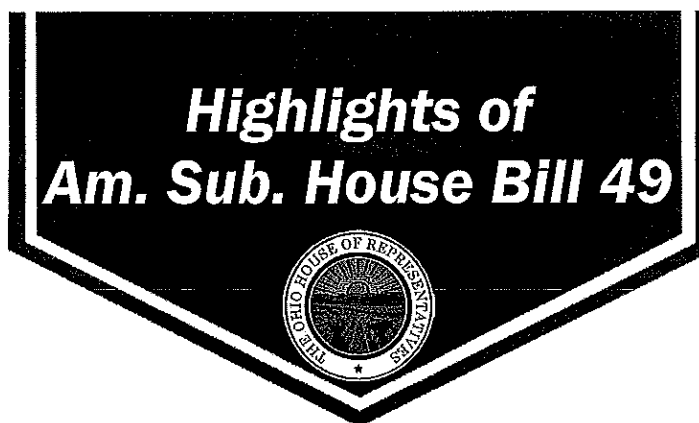
Facing challenges head-on

Over the past year, the amount of tax revenue flowing into the state has been consistently under what was estimated. This situation is not unique to Ohio. About two-thirds of states are facing similar circumstances, as national growth has been lagging for the past year-plus.

This is not a cause for panic, but it cannot be ignored either. As is reflected in Am. Sub. HB 49, House Republicans have addressed this issue head-on and have put forth a balanced budget bill that is **fiscally responsible and that prioritizes Ohio's greatest needs.**

With added focus on restraining spending and protecting essential services, HB 49 has taken significant steps toward addressing Ohio's revenue situation. Among them:

- Roughly 3 percent cuts across-the-board
- All-Funds budget is under inflation for the first time in several years
- House administrative budget cut by 6 percent
- Spending is about \$2.9 billion less than the executive proposal over the biennium



A fiscally responsible budget that prioritizes Ohio's greatest needs

Continuing the Commitment to Fiscal Responsibility

- Restrains All-Funds growth below inflation over the biennium
- Spends \$2.9 billion less than executive proposal over the biennium
- Reduces House administrative budget by 6 percent

Combating Ohio's Opioid Epidemic through Coordinated Care

- Invests \$180 million toward one of our state's most pressing issues
- Takes a multifaceted approach to help people overcome addiction
- Prioritizes prevention, treatment, mental health and workforce reintegration

Providing Valuable Resources for Ohio's Schools

- Ensures that a majority of schools do not lose state funding for FY '18 and FY '19
- Increases per-pupil funding and rewards high-performing educational service centers

Promoting a Competitive, Predictable and Simplified Tax Structure

- Reduces number of tax brackets from nine to seven
- Provides consistency in Ohio's tax structure by ensuring that taxes were not raised
- Modernizes Ohio's CAUV formula through minimal impact to schools and local governments

Expanding Options and Addressing Costs of Higher Education

- Provides \$5 million for financial assistance to obtain short-term certificates
- Requires colleges and universities to study their textbook costs
- Includes innovative tuition controls to keep the cost of earning a college degree down

Strengthening Accountability and Transparency in Medicaid

- Emphasizes the importance of restoring oversight of Medicaid program to the General Assembly
- Places guardrails on future Medicaid growth to ensure its long-term solvency

Ensuring Children Receive the Care and Attention They Deserve

- Restores the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) and funds it at \$3 million per year
- Increases Child, Family and Community Protection Services by \$15 million per year





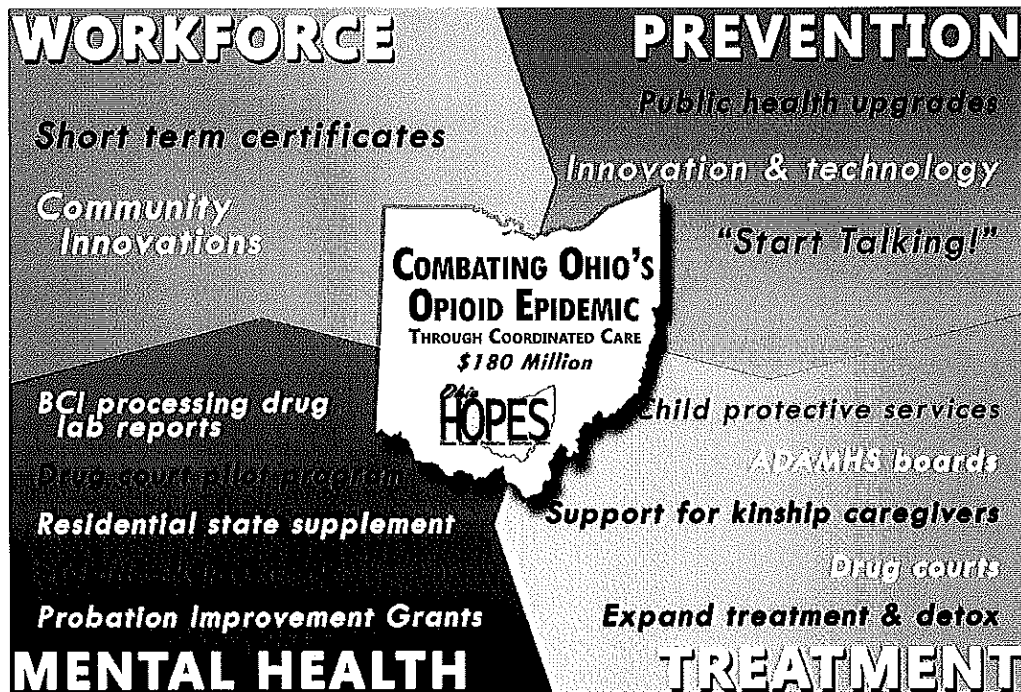
Ohio led the nation in opioid-related overdose deaths in 2015. Although death totals are still being calculated, casualties are expected to be 30 percent higher in 2016. Perhaps no other problem has touched the state so universally and indiscriminately than that of drug addiction, affecting rural, urban and suburban communities alike.

House Republicans remain committed to fighting this terrible scourge, and House Bill 49 takes a bold and aggressive approach to tackling the drug epidemic on multiple fronts.

HOPES (Heroin, Opioids, Prevention, Education and Safety) Agenda

As part of the Buckeye Pathway, the HOPES Agenda is strongly reflected in Am. Sub. HB 49:

HB 49 invests **\$180 million in new money** to fight drug addiction *through coordinated care*, focusing primarily on four key areas: ***Prevention, Treatment, Mental Health and Workforce***. (Note: The items below are not an exhaustive list, but reflect most of the major funding areas and programs. Unless otherwise denoted, all funding numbers below are over the biennium.)



Prevention

- ***Innovation and Technology:*** It is critically important to get the drug-free message out to people of all ages and backgrounds. The "All Roads Lead to Home" initiative includes developing a mobile app to provide resources and information regarding opioid addiction and treatment services, as well as PSAs, a website and a 24-hour hotline
- ***Public Health Upgrades:*** Invests \$8 million in the Ohio Department of Health devoted to improving public health programs and directs \$3.8 million for upgrading the OARRS pharmacy database
- ***"Start Talking!":*** Building off the governor's work on this issue, this is an important branding tool that people can recognize and helps them know where to reach out

Combating Ohio's Opioid Epidemic



Treatment

- **Child Protective Services (\$30M):** Having seen an increase of 1,400 new children under counties' care over the past six years, the budget invests funding to provide services for the children of opiate addicts
- **Kinship Care (\$30M):** The goal is to attract more kinship families, wherein the children's family members are able to take care of them, not only to ease the burden on the foster care system, but also to help families stay together
- **Expand Treatment and Detox (\$32M):** Because too many Ohioans lack access to treatment, this will greatly expand treatment options, as well as reduce waiting times by investing \$20 million in treatment and \$12 million in detox
- **ADAMHS Boards (\$14M):** In most counties, ADAMHS boards are on the front lines of this fight, and HB 49 bolsters them with additional resources, including \$75,000 going directly to each county
- **Drug Courts (\$6M):** Expands drug courts, which offer courts the discretion to individualize rehabilitation plans

Mental Health

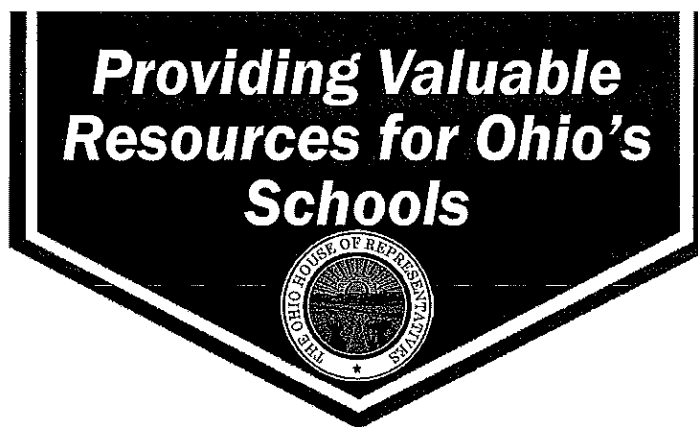
- **BCI Processing Drug and Forensic Lab Reports (\$4M):** Drug labs have been overwhelmed; this investment will help them keep up with toxicology reports, etc.
- **Stabilization Centers (\$3M):** Ensures Ohioans have access to mental health crisis services
- **Residential State Supplement (\$2M):** Provides resources to individuals who have increased needs due to a disability and are living in licensed state facilities
- **Drug Court Pilot Program (\$1M):** Like ATP drug courts, this pilot program extends the same concept to mental health (Franklin and Warren)
- **Probation Improvement and Incentive Grants (\$10M):** Encourages counties to adopt evidence-based practices for reducing probation violators from going to prison

Workforce

- **Short-term Certificates (\$5M):** Once someone receives treatment, it is critical that they take the next step and return to the workforce; these certificates can help expedite that process so that individuals can return to being productive members of society and provide for their families
- **Community Innovations (\$2 million):** Reappropriates \$2 million to be used for workforce recruitment and retention, including supporting behavioral health centers in areas of independent licensure, tuition reimbursement and loan repayment

House Republicans know that the solution does not reside solely in government. This requires an all-hands-on-deck approach that many communities are already putting into action. Through the creative provisions in Am. Sub. HB 49, more tools and resources can be utilized at the local level so that people who are ready to seek help can immediately access services and guidance.





Another top priority is ensuring Ohio's schools have the resources they need to provide the kind of education that will produce young adults who are ready to tackle the issues of tomorrow. Furthermore, providing a strong educational base will better equip young people to provide for themselves and their families so that, for example, they do not give in to pressures like drug abuse, which has ravaged our state in recent years.

While House Republicans kept many of the provisions contained in the executive proposal, they did expand resources overall for primary and secondary education funding.

Providing more money to the classroom

- Increases per-pupil funding from \$6,000 to \$6,010
- Increases state foundation funding by \$154M in FY'18 and \$120M in FY'19

Rewarding strong performance

- Provides high-performing ESCs with \$26 per student; other ESCs with \$24 per student
- Re-appropriates millions for high-performing charter schools to address facility needs

Upholding local control

- Removes teacher externship requirement; **some school districts already administer teacher externships, but House Republicans did not believe there was a need to mandate them**
- Removes executive proposal measure to require three non-voting members of the business community to sit on school boards; **House Republicans agree it is important for students to be educated in a manner that reflects the real-world needs of the workforce, but it can be done through other ways**

Supporting career technical education

- Increases funding for Career Technical Education Enhancements by \$128,500 in FY'18
- Ensures that the OhioMeansJobs website will continue to provide individuals with the opportunity to seek out employment in Ohio
- Provides the Ohio ProStart school restaurant program with \$100,000

“House Republicans expanded resources overall for primary and secondary education funding.”

Providing Valuable Resources for Ohio's Schools



Preparing Students to Enter Ohio's Workforce

- Develops a Regional Workforce Collaboration Model to provide career services to students and requires Ohio to comply with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- Creates a Workforce Supply Tool that provides information regarding in-demand jobs
- Promotes the use of public libraries as "continuous learning centers" to serve as hubs for information about local in-demand jobs and relevant education and job training resources
- Increases the OhioMeansJobs Revolving Loan Fund maximum award amount from \$100,000 to \$250,000 (per workforce program, per year)
- Establishes standards, accountability, and reporting requirements for Business Advisory Councils for school district boards of education

Summer Food Service Program

- Requires that if a school provides summer academic intervention services and opts out of offering summer food services in a school in which at least half of the students are eligible for free lunches, then the school must allow an approved summer food service program sponsor to use the school's facilities, ensuring that hungry students receive meals during the summer when school is not in session

Driver Education

- Directs that driver education courses include instruction on driving when impaired, the science of addiction and the effects of psychoactive substances while driving

Transportation Services

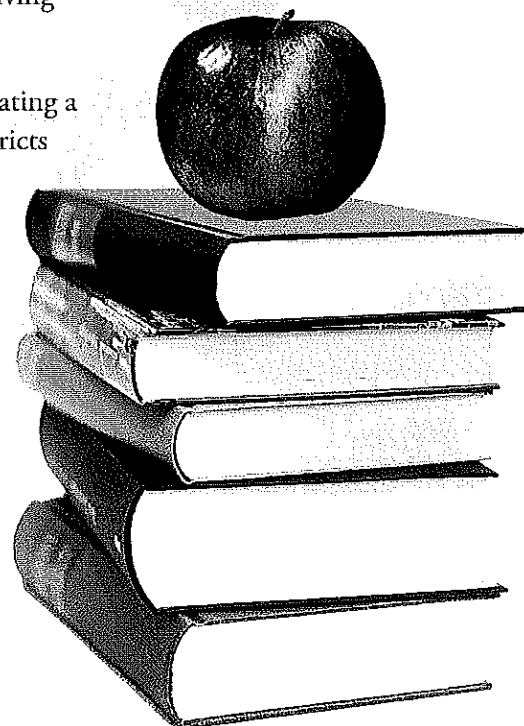
- Orders JEOC to develop legislative recommendations for creating a Joint Transportation Pilot Program in which at least two districts share transportation services

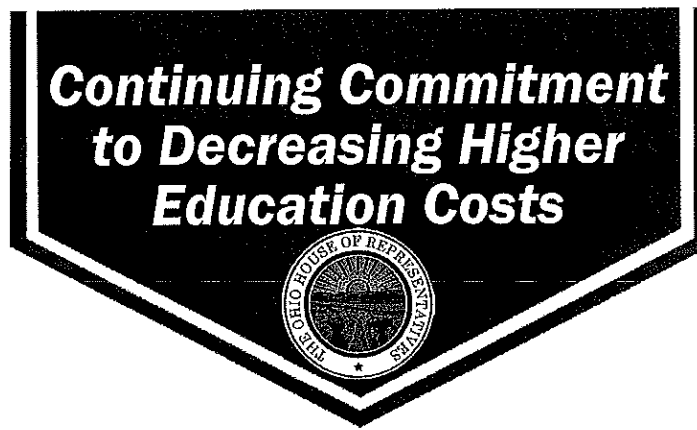
Study of Local Revenue Losses

- Requires the Ohio Department of Education to annually recommend to the General Assembly a structure to compensate schools experiencing at least a 50 percent decrease in public utility personal property valuation from one year to the next for a percentage of the effect that decrease has on the district's foundation aid payment

Reducing Testing

- Decreases the stress of over-testing by eliminating fourth and sixth grade state achievement tests for social studies





Am. Sub. House Bill 49 continues to prioritize making the attainment of a college degree more cost-effective through various reform efforts.

Tuition Controls that Help Ohio's Students

- Includes innovative tuition controls to keep the cost of earning a college degree down
- Continues the tuition freeze for undergraduates at universities and ensures that most fees are frozen, providing a more affordable college education for students
- \$5 million investment for short-term certificates for in-demand jobs
 - An effort to reach folks who need certification, but also helps them quickly get up and out so they are able to support themselves

Addresses the Cost of College Textbooks

- Requires colleges and universities to study their textbook costs annually and report these costs to the Chancellor
 - Requires colleges and universities to adopt a textbook selection policy for faculty to use when assigning textbooks
 - Works to lessen financial burden placed on college students

Helps Ohio's Various Community Colleges

- Allows them to offer an applied bachelor's degree if the degree is not offered by a public or private university within the state
- Provides flexibility by allowing a \$10 per credit increase in tuition for the 2018-2019 school year

Works to Improve the College Credit Plus Program

- Mandates that the Chancellor study outcomes of the CCP program

Provides for Additional Changes in an Effort to Limit Costs to the Student

- Requires the Chancellor to investigate fees charged by colleges and universities

Connecting Students with their Elected Officials

- \$5 million appropriated for The Ohio State University to facilitate the State of Ohio Leadership Institute (SOLI), which will provide instruction to state and local officials on various topics related to state government
- Gives students access to elected officials through the John Glenn College of Public Affairs

Promoting a Competative, Predictable & Simplified Tax Structure



House Republicans believe in a tax code that allows people to keep more of their hard-earned money and attracts entrepreneurs to create businesses in our state, all while maintaining the resources necessary to fund essential services. Although under different economic circumstances than the previous three Republican-led budget bills, Am. Sub. House Bill 49 upholds those same principles.

Eliminating Tax-Shifting

- Am. Sub. HB 49 removes all executive tax proposals which balanced reductions in income tax with nearly equal combined increases in the sales, severance, tobacco and vapor, and commercial activity taxes
- After accounting for the revenue situation, House Republicans determined that keeping the current tax structure the same was the best path forward for Ohio's growth
- The business community expressed appreciation for the progress made in recent years and applauded the stability and predictability outlined in this budget

Simplifying the Tax Code

- Am. Sub. House Bill 49 reduces the number of tax brackets in Ohio from nine to seven
 - New lowest bracket begins at \$10,500 at \$77.96 + 1.98%
- Removes the executive provision requiring businesses to file income taxes through the state and pay a fee
 - Requires commissioner to distribute municipal income taxes monthly

Modernizing CAUV (Current Agricultural Use Value)

Ohio's agriculture community has been experiencing property values increasing by upwards of 300 percent in recent years, while farm income is at its second-lowest level since the 1920s. *Through various reforms to be phased in over a six-year period, House Republicans aim to offer property tax relief for farmers by reducing the taxable value of farmland.*

The way CAUV is currently calculated does not accurately reflect today's farm economy. HB 49 proposes using an equity rate that judges farm economy based on information disseminated from the USDA. This new formula will change the capitalization rate, lower property values and give farmers more dispensation upon a true value of agricultural use, *while having minimal impact on Ohio's schools and local governments.*

Job Creation Tax Credit

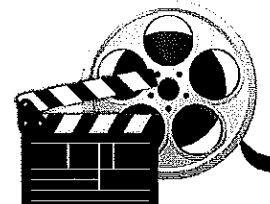
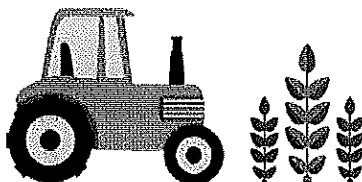
- Authorizes the job creation tax credit to count employees who work from home in the job creation totals

Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday

- Provides for a continuation of Ohio's sales tax holiday during the first weekend of August in 2018, helping families save money during the busy "back-to-school" time

Motion Picture Tax Credit

- Requires a project to have 50% of its financing to be eligible for the Motion Picture Tax Credit; prioritizes television or miniseries projects
- This industry continues to be a boon to Ohio's economy, creating jobs and promoting workforce development





Making sure that Ohio's health care system is accessible and affordable is a priority for the caucus. Among the components necessary for establishing and maintaining top-notch health care in the state is to have in place strict guardrails that demand transparency and accountability. Through a series of provisions, Am. Sub. HB 49 continues this commitment to common-sense policy.

Strengthening Accountability in Medicaid

About 3 million Ohioans are covered by Medicaid, and since its inception, the program has become a larger portion of the state budget. *The caucus' goal is to find ways to ensure the program is effective for the people who need it, while also making it efficient and sustainable.*

Am. Sub. HB 49 takes a firm approach when it comes to increasing accountability measures for the Medicaid Group VIII population, remaining true to the goal of providing people the assistance they need while taking steps to help them live independent, productive lives.

The bill also places guardrails on future Medicaid Group VIII spending through the Controlling Board. HB 49 takes the state share funding portion and transfers it into the Health and Human Services Fund. Upon request from the Medicaid Director, the Controlling Board has the authority to release funds. *This provision was included in Governor Kasich's vetoes. The House voted to override this veto and now waits for Senate consideration.*

Returning Medicaid Oversight to the General Assembly

- The Medicaid Group VIII requirements outlined in the House-passed budget are still in place
 - Am. Sub. HB 49 directs the Department of Medicaid to seek a federal waiver to require a Group VIII Medicaid recipient to be one of the following: at least 55, medically fragile, employed, in an education or workforce training program, or in a recovery program
- Prohibits the Department of Medicaid from increasing provider rates, rolling new populations into managed care, or expanding eligibility without approval from the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (JMOC)
 - *This provision was included in Governor Kasich's vetoes. The House voted to override this veto and now waits for Senate consideration.*
- Prohibits nursing facilities and home- and community-based waiver services from being added to Medicaid managed care
 - *This provision was included in Governor Kasich's vetoes. The House voted to override this veto and now waits for Senate consideration.*
- Requires a study committee to review and submit a report by Dec 31, 2018; does not apply to MyCare Ohio program

These reforms are intended to implement more comprehensive checks and balances within Ohio's Medicaid system. Establishing greater oversight will better equip the state for handling costs and enrollment in this important program.

For information about Medicaid eligibility requirements for expansion groups, see Veto Overrides on page 19.

Ensuring Quality Health Care



Ensuring Children Receive the Care and Attention They Deserve

- Restores the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) program and funds it at \$3 million per year; BCMh links families of children with special healthcare needs, like cystic fibrosis, to healthcare providers and assists families with medical payments
- Provides the Adaptive Sports Program with \$50,000 per year
- Increases Child, Family and Community Protection Services by \$15 million per year

“In terms of compassion, I believe that you really want to help those who are, not only less fortunate, but who are innocent victims of disease that need a hand up so they can have the same opportunities as everyone else. ”

Former NFL Quarterback Boomer Esiason on BCMh funding





House Republicans understand that criminal justice policies should be crafted based on keeping our streets safe, while providing avenues to rehabilitate offenders so they can return to being productive members of society. *Several provisions in Am. Sub. House Bill 49 move Ohio closer to accomplishing these goals.*

Ensuring Prison is Reserved for the Most Violent Offenders

- “Targeted Community Alternative to Prison” (TCAP): a pilot project in eight counties that is intended to treat low level offenders within the community by supplementing supervision resources to the local courts
 - Seeks to avoid lifetime consequences of incarcerating low-level non-violent offenders alongside the most violent offenders, while providing counties with resources they need to focus on rehabilitation and public safety
- Am. Sub. HB 49 expands TCAP by making it mandatory for the 10 largest counties and optional for every other county
- Under the program, a judge cannot send a person to prison for an f5 offense that is not a violent, sexual, or drug trafficking offense and the offender has not previously been convicted of felony offenses of violence or sex
- Participating counties will receive grants supporting programs that are alternative to incarceration

Focusing Probation on Rehabilitation

- While Ohio has one of the lowest recidivism rates, it has one of the highest probation violation rates
- Recognizing that there is a difference between probation violations that indicate the offender belongs in prison and violations that indicate the terms of probation are a barrier to rehabilitation, Am. Sub. HB 49 limits the amount of time a person on probation can be sent to prison for violating a term of probation that is not a prison eligible offense

Incentivizing Rehabilitation

- Allows for certain offenders to receive credit of 90 days or 10% of their sentence (whichever is less) if they complete any of the following while in prison:
 - Ohio High School diploma or equivalence certified by the state
 - Drug treatment program
 - College certification program
 - A certificate of achievement or employability
- Expands the availability and effectiveness of the Certificate of Qualification for Employment program so that persons with criminal records can obtain a certificate offering employers protections against negligent hiring liability, increasing the person’s likelihood of employment

Directing Additional Resources to the Local Level

- Increases funding for Indigent Defense by \$7.1 million in FY’18 and \$7.9 million in FY’19
- Permits a sheriff to use commissary profits for technology to keep contraband out of jails



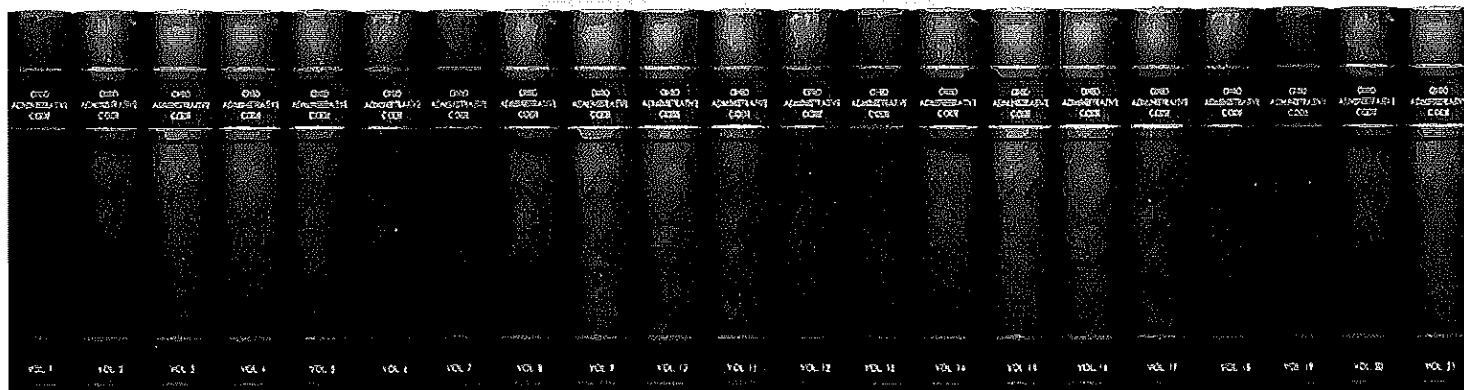


In an effort to streamline state government agencies and to eliminate further barriers to certification for various professions, House Republicans prioritized the consolidation of certain boards and commissions in the state operating budget.

- Optometry + Optical Dispensers Board = *Vision Professionals Board*
- Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology + Hearing Aid Dealers & Fitters Licensing Board = *Hearing Professionals Board*
- Barber Board + Cosmetology Board = *The Cosmetology and Barber Board*
- Eliminates the requirement that individuals who practice orthotics, prosthetics or pedorthics be licensed and dissolves the board
- Abolishes the Constitutional Modernization Commission

Also part of Am. Sub. House Bill 49 are provisions aimed at protecting taxpayer dollars in relation to advertising campaigns

- The bill requires any advertising purchase by any official elected to statewide office or member of the General Assembly that is more than \$50,000 in public money to receive approval by the Controlling Board





The caucus remains committed to protecting Ohio's rich natural resources while also nurturing our vital agricultural industry, which is an economic asset for the state.

- ***Helps residents in the Buckeye Lake area:*** Reduces the criterion for a Lakes in Economic Distress loan applicant from 40 percent loss to a 10 percent loss
- Continues the requirement that 14 percent of the Oil and Gas Fund be used to plug orphan wells
- Gives authority to the legislature for appointing members to the Oil & Gas Leasing Commission, rather than the governor (**as included in veto override vote, see page 19*)
- Requires the Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management to conduct a minimum of two safety inspections of a surface mining operation the year following an inspection by the US Department of Labor that found three or more violations per day
- Initiates the Ohio Soybean Marketing Program





In a tight budget cycle, House Republicans remain committed to supporting Ohio's local governments in every way they can. As our cities and counties continue to fight on the front lines against the heroin and opioid addiction crisis, they are in need of specific funds directed towards combating the issue.

Local Government Fund (LGF)

Am. Sub. House Bill 49 retains the rate of the Local Government Fund at 1.66 percent of general revenue.

A portion of the LGF that is distributed to municipalities that levy an income tax is redirected to a new fund, the Targeting Addiction Assistance Fund, under the legislation, to be used as follows:

- \$1 million to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to reimburse county coroners that perform toxicology screenings on victims of drug overdose
- \$10 million to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) to provide Probation Improvement and Incentive Grants to municipalities with an emphasis on providing addiction services
- \$6 million to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS) to provide to local boards of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services to administer substance abuse stabilization centers
- \$150,000 to the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (JFS) for children's crisis care centers
- \$500,000 to the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), in consultation with JFS and ODH, for a pilot program to treat newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome

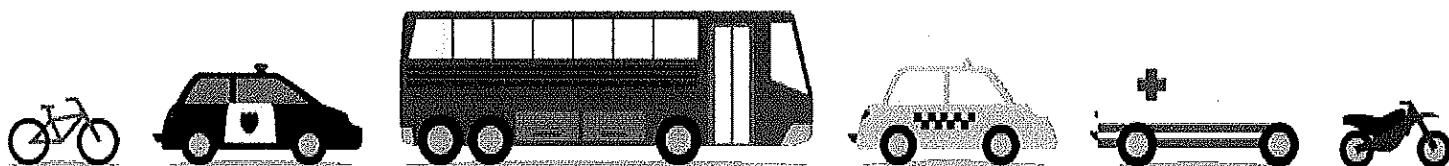
Managed Care Organizations – Franchise Fee (see page 19 for more details)

Under the budget bill, Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) would be subject to a franchise fee, replacing a state and local sales tax on services rendered by Medicaid MCOs. In 2014, the state of Ohio was advised by the federal government that applying this sales tax was no longer permissible under federal law and that Ohio must comply by the end of June 2017. ***This provision was included in Governor Kasich's vetoes. The House voted to override this veto and now waits for Senate consideration.***

- The additional funds raised will be distributed to each county and transit authority that experiences reduced sales tax revenues due to the cessation of the sales tax on Medicaid MCOs
- The franchise fee sunsets in six years, matching the six years over which the sales tax was collected
- The Director of the Department of Medicaid must see federal approval to increase this fee, which has the potential of raising up to an additional \$207 million each fiscal year for local entities through 2024

Public Library Fund

- Increases library funding by providing 1.68% of the total tax revenue credited to the General Revenue Fund to the Public Library Fund each month during fiscal years 2018 and 2019





Governor Kasich vetoed 47 provisions in the legislature's state budget proposal. On July 6, 2017, the Ohio House voted to override 11 of those 47 vetoes, which is a natural part of the government's checks-and-balances process.

Those actions were a decision to return various provisions of the state operating budget to what the legislature intended. It was the first time in exactly 40 years (July 6, 1977) that a legislative body voted to override multiple vetoes in a state budget bill.

All remaining vetoes were left open for consideration by the caucus and can be brought up for an override vote at any time until December 31, 2018—the final day of the 132nd General Assembly.

In no way does the decision to override the Governor's vetoes reflect personal motivations or animosities, but it simply is based on a difference in policy opinions that our caucus believes are best for Ohio's future.

This process is not about winning or losing, nor about one side taking credit over another. It is about addressing differences head-on and advancing policies that will be best for all Ohioans.

The following is a list of the House's overrides. Green denotes items that the Senate also voted to override. (Item numbers correspond to the governor's veto message).

Item 3: Controlling Board authority

- Limits the Controlling Board's authority when determining appropriation adjustments and creating new funds
- House's override restores necessary authority to the legislature

Item 23: Medicaid coverage of optional eligibility groups

- Allows the Ohio Department of Medicaid to cover new, optional groups only when permitted by statute
- Restores greater authority to the General Assembly over the Medicaid program
- Override is necessary to deal with a Medicaid block grant program, which could soon be administered by the federal government

Item 25: Legislative oversight of rules increasing Medicaid rates

- Requires the Ohio Department of Medicaid to submit proposals for rate increases to the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee
- Gives JMOC and the General Assembly the ability to prohibit rate increases

Item 26: Medicaid rates for neonatal and newborn services

- Requires the Ohio Department of Medicaid to set neonatal and newborn services rates at 75 percent of Medicare

Item 27: Medicaid rates for nursing facilities

- Changes the formula used to determine Medicaid payment rates for nursing facility services
- Override helps these facilities avoid a \$237 million cut to their reimbursement rates
- Vote to override was unanimous (96-0)

Item 30: Long-term services added to Medicaid managed care

- Prohibits long-term services from being added to Medicaid managed care unless approved by the General Assembly
- Important for legislature consisting of elected representatives to retain authority to determine how well people are being cared for



Item 31: Behavioral health redesign

- Requires the Ohio Department of Medicaid to delay implementation of the behavioral health redesign into managed care until July 1, 2018
- The delay is important to avoid significant problems for the state's behavioral health providers, many of which are smaller providers in rural and urban communities

Item 33: Health insuring corporation franchise fee

- Requires the Ohio Department of Medicaid to ask the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for an increase in the health insuring corporation franchise fee that has already been approved
- Additional funds will go to counties and transit authorities
- Without override, counties and transit authorities across the state would lose all replacement revenue for managed care sales tax revenue
- It is a partial replacement; not a tax increase
- Temporary for six years and subject to CMS approval

Item 34: Controlling Board authorization regarding Medicaid expenditures

- Restricts the Controlling Board from releasing funds if Congress amends federal law regarding medical assistance that reduces the percentage

Item 36: Waiver regarding Healthy Ohio program

- Requires the Ohio Department of Medicaid to request a waiver from CMS to implement the Healthy Ohio program

Item 37: Oil and Gas Leasing Commission Appointments

- Transfers appointment authority for members of the Ohio Oil and Gas Leasing Commission from the governor to the General Assembly
- The Oil and Gas Leasing Commission was passed and signed into law in 2011
- Despite signing the bill, the Governor has not appointed members to the commission in the six years since enactment
- Override gives the legislature the authority to fill the commission, seeing as the lack of one hindered oil and gas development in the state

**** On Item 28: Medicaid eligibility requirements for expansion group ****

- The conference report that was approved by the House and Senate included a provision seeking a waiver through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to prohibit the enrollment of new individuals into the Medicaid Group VIII expansion population, with exceptions for the mentally ill and drug-addicted
- Governor Kasich vetoed the proposal
- The House did not vote to override the Governor's veto on July 6
 - Largely citing uncertainty in Washington D.C. and the potential for Congress to make significant changes regarding Medicaid expansion
- Because the legislature has until the end of 2018 to take up a veto override, the caucus felt it was appropriate to wait to see if the federal government provides further guidance
- But, like all other vetoes, Item 28 remains open for consideration and could come up for an override in the future



Henson, Libby

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 5:01 PM
To: Miller, Brad; Best, Carolyn; Slack, Cora
Cc: Michalowski, Joe; Lundregan, Scott; Basie, Margaret
Subject: RE: PR ALERT: Becker/Riedel (sending at 5:10)

Libby Westlake

Special Assistant to the Speaker for Correspondence
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger | Ohio House of Representatives
(614) 728-5448

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 5:00 PM
To: Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Lundregan, Scott <Scott.Lundregan@ohiohouse.gov>; Basie, Margaret <Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: PR ALERT: Becker/Riedel (sending at 5:10)

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:56 PM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Lundregan, Scott <Scott.Lundregan@ohiohouse.gov>; Basie, Margaret <Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: PR ALERT: Becker/Riedel (sending at 5:10)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
December 21, 2017

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

State Representatives John Becker and Craig S. Riedel ~~Announce~~ Introduction of Six Right-to-Work Ohio Constitutional Amendments

COLUMBUS—State Representatives John Becker (R-Union Township) and Craig S. Riedel (R-Defiance) today announced that nine additional Members (members) have signed onto one or more of six Right-to-Work related Ohio constitutional amendments.

- HJR 8: Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Furthermore, this amendment will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
- HJR 7: Public-sector Right-to-Work – This legislation is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
- HJR 9: Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
- HJR 12: Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This amendment prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers’ wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers’ money on political activities without workers’ consent.
- HJR 10: Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This legislation is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from minimizing competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
- HJR 11: Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers’ bargaining units. This amendment will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

With 11 State Representatives (state representatives) sponsoring one or more of them, Becker and Riedel are asking Ohio’s General Assembly to put all of them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. “Now that 28 states— and four out of five of Ohio’s neighboring states— (turn into long dashes) have enacted Right-to-Work laws, the nation’s future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment,” said Becker. “Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio’s future.” ~~Becker continued.~~ (insert space)

“I believe in individual freedom, and the right of a worker to be able to choose whether or not they want to belong to a union,” Riedel added. “By bringing these Right-to-Work amendments forward as ballot issues, we are allowing the citizens of Ohio to have the final say.”

Henson, Libby

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 5:00 PM
To: Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora
Cc: Michalowski, Joe; Lundregan, Scott; Basie, Margaret
Subject: RE: PR ALERT: Becker/Riedel (sending at 5:10)

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:56 PM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Lundregan, Scott <Scott.Lundregan@ohiohouse.gov>; Basie, Margaret <Margaret.Basie@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: PR ALERT: Becker/Riedel (sending at 5:10)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES *Majority Communications Department*

For Immediate Release:
December 21, 2017

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

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(insert space)
 "I believe in individual freedom, and the right of a worker to be able to choose whether or not they want to belong to a union," Riedel added. "By bringing these Right-to-Work amendments forward as ballot issues, we are allowing the citizens of Ohio to have the final say."

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Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 4:56 PM
To: Miller, Brad; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora
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OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES *Majority Communications Department*

For Immediate Release:
December 21, 2017

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

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With 11 State Representatives sponsoring one or more of them, Becker and Riedel are asking Ohio's General Assembly to put all of them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. "Now that 28 states- and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states- have enacted Right-to-Work laws, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment," said Becker. "Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future," Becker continued. "I believe in individual freedom, and the right of a worker to be able to choose whether or not they want to belong to a union," Riedel added. "By bringing these Right-to-Work amendments forward as ballot issues, we are allowing the citizens of Ohio to have the final say."

Henson, Libby

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 2:43 PM
To: Michalowski, Joe
Cc: Basie, Margaret
Subject: Becker & Riedel REVISED Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Becker & Riedel Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf

Importance: High

Representative Craig S. Riedel

has signed on to all six of these constitutional amendments as a joint sponsor with Rep. Becker.

Each of the six amendments would appear on Ohio's general election ballot on November 3, 2020.

The current co-sponsors of all six are: Rep. Thompson, Rep. Brinkman, Rep. Dean, Rep. Keller, Rep. Roegner, and Rep. Zeltwanger.

Rep. Lang is a co-sponsor on the following constitutional amendments: private-sector right-to-work (amendment #1); public-sector prevailing wage (amendment #3); and public-sector project labor agreements (amendment #5). Rep. Vitale is a co-sponsor on public-sector right-to-work (amendment #2).

Revised deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY at 5:00 PM. Please note which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor.

Ohio House of Representatives



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

Representative Craig S. Riedel
Ohio's 82nd House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker and Representative Craig S. Riedel
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017
RE: **REVISED: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments**

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

1. Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
3. Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
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6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY- Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

 C.S. Riedel

John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

Craig S. Riedel
State Representative
82nd House District

Henson, Libby

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:39 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 12/20/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS 12/20/2017

The Columbus Dispatch
Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper

REPORT SUGGESTS STATE AGENCY ALREADY HAS VIOLATED NEW CONTRACTING POLICY

After The Dispatch revealed the Ohio Department of Administrative Services awarded \$15 million in unbid contracts to favored information-technology consultants, the agency promised to clean up its act.

NEW WHALEY AD PRAISES WORK, PROMISES JOBS

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley has released a new internet ad touting the dignity of work as she seeks the Democratic nomination for governor.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

LEHNER'S BILL AIMS TO CHANGE OHIO TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEM

The Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) could see significant changes if a bill recently introduced by State Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) becomes law.

STATE SENATOR TO RUN FOR MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSION

State Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) today delcared his candidacy for a seat on the Miami County Commission.

THE ENQUIRER

'RIGHT TO WORK' IN OHIO? GOP LAWMAKER WANTS VOTERS TO CHOOSE

Undeterred by the acrimonious fight over Senate Bill 5, GOP Rep. John Becker wants voters to choose whether Ohio should become a right-to-work state.

Henson, Libby

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 3:49 PM
To: Westlake, Libby
Cc: JBecker (John@BeckerGOP.com)
Subject: FW: December Column Options

Libby,

Thank you for drafting the column below. Rep. Becker asked that we put a hold on the column about HB 421 due to some pending amendments on the bill, and instead publish a guest column on his six right-to-work constitutional amendments which were included in today's press release and Friday's co-sponsor request. Please forgive us for the inconvenience!

Sincerely,

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 4:40 PM
To: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: December Column Options

Hi Joe—Below is the column draft I've worked up for you. Since there wasn't a whole lot of information available on the bill, feel free to make any edits as you see fit. Let me know when it is approved to send. Thanks!

*December 11, 2017
Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134*

Guest Column from State Representative John Becker

Legislation Would Distinguish Replica Vehicles

For many Americans, the privilege to own a car is one that is highly cherished—a central part of the American tradition. Planted firmly in the roots established by Henry Ford's Model T, automobiles are often not just a form of transportation, but a hobby. That hobby becomes even more fun in the hunt for rare cars, which are often difficult to find and expensive! So for many with an interest, replica vehicles are a way to celebrate their passion when those one-of-a-kind cars can't be found.

While they may not be original, replica cars are still motor vehicles that require a registration and title. This process can vary from state to state. In Ohio, to make the certificate of title process easier, I have joint sponsored House Bill 421. This bill would change Ohio law to provide that when a clerk of a court of common pleas issues a physical or electronic title for a motor vehicle, the owner can request that it designates the vehicle as a replica motor vehicle.

Additionally, under the bill, the registrar of motor vehicles will determine the words or symbol used to mark the vehicle as a replica. This will make it easier to differentiate between original vehicles and replicas and create a uniform titling process for these uncommon cars. It is a simple change that allows owners to explicitly claim their vehicle as a replica for reporting or authenticity purposes.

Replica vehicles are a fun way for car enthusiasts to enjoy their hobby while respecting and admiring those special, unique cars, like the Shelby Cobra or a Mercedes-Benz convertible from the 1930s. House Bill 421 will allow owners to continue their pastime while properly titling the vehicles. As always, if you have any questions, I can be reached by calling (614) 466-8134, emailing Rep65@ohiohouse.gov, or writing to State Representative John Becker at 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

-30-

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Thursday, December 07, 2017 10:14 AM
To: Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: FW: December Column Options

Libby,

Rep. Becker would like to write about HB 421 (Provide that when a certificate of title is issued for a motor vehicle, the owner may request that the certificate indicate that the motor vehicle is a replica vehicle), which we are joint sponsoring with Rep. Patterson. We did send a press release about HB 421 for Alex Adams' review to Rep. Becker's local media yesterday, but he would like to make HB 421 the subject of our December column as well.

LSC hasn't produced any documents yet besides the bill text, but it's 1 page: http://search-prod.lis.state.oh.us/solarapi/v1/general_assembly_132/bills/hb421/IN/00?format=pdf

As always, thank you for your help!

Cordially,

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: John@BeckerGOP.com [<mailto:John@BeckerGOP.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 07, 2017 2:04 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: December Column Options

Let's write about the replica title bill.

John Becker, CTP, MBA - Taxation
State Representative
Ohio's 65th District House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
614-466-8134 (o)
513-753-6440 (h)
<mailto:Rep65@OhioHouse.gov>
Vetted, Tested, and Proven!

"Becker has a legitimate claim as the state's most conservative legislator," according to The [Cleveland] Plain Dealer (September 2017).
"Rep. John Becker, suburban Cincinnati Republican... [holds] the unofficial title as the General Assembly's most conservative lawmaker," proclaimed the Columbus Dispatch (September 2015).
Becker wins prestigious William Wilberforce Leadership Award (April 2015).
"GOP Ohio House freshman Becker is no shrinking violet," headlined the Columbus Dispatch (December 2014).
"Becker...is arguably the most conservative member of the Ohio House," said The Cincinnati Enquirer (January 2014).
Ranked as a top tier "most archconservative" by the Columbus Dispatch (September 2013).

From: Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov [<mailto:Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 5:14 PM
To: 'John@BeckerGOP.com' <John@BeckerGOP.com>
Subject: FW: December Column Options

Rep. Becker,

Would you like to do a December column? We did a press release about HB 214 in November, and I believe we did one about SNAP while I was in Texas.

I recommend caution about HB 98, as labor unions are among its proponents.

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: Westlake, Libby

Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 5:02 PM

To: Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: December Column Options



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

To: Republican House Members
From: Majority Communications Office
Re: December Column Options
Date: December 6, 2017

The Majority Communications Office has compiled the following list of column topics for you to choose from. These columns can be personalized to you and your district in any way you see fit. If you are interested in having a column drafted for you by Communications, please contact Libby Westlake at 8-5448 or Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov with your preferred column topic by **Monday, December 11th**.

December Column Topics

Recent Legislation

- SNAP reform: Joint column on House Bills 50 and 119
- House Bill 98: Ohio High School Career Opportunity Act
- House Bill 142: Requirements for concealed handgun licensees
- House Bill 214: Prohibiting abortions that are sought because of a Down syndrome diagnosis
- House Bill 254: POW/MIA Remembrance Act
- House Bill 286: Palliative care initiatives
- House Bill 365: Reagan Tokes Act

Year in Review

- The Ohio House has passed many beneficial bills so far this General Assembly, and as 2017 comes to a close it is a perfect time to reflect on some of this year's accomplishments. This column can highlight legislation including the budget, education issues, healthcare, or any other policy topic that might be of interest to you. Please identify specifically what legislation you would like to highlight.

Opioid Addiction Epidemic

- The Ohio Department of Health announced that 2016 saw a 32.8 percent increase in drug overdose deaths as compared to 2015. Clearly, there is more work to be done towards combating this issue. This column can focus on initiatives done at the state level, but it is also recommended to use this column to discuss and highlight organizations and resources in your district for those in need.

House Task Forces

- Specialized task forces are collaborating with experts, interested parties, and the public to work towards solutions to some of Ohio's most pressing issues. The Speaker's Task Forces include: Alzheimer's and Dementia, HOPES, Energy Policy, Education and Poverty, and BRAC and Military Affairs. This column can focus on one or all of these special committees and the work they are doing.

Festivals and Holiday Events

- With the holidays in full swing, many communities have winter festivals, lighting ceremonies, and other occasions to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, and the New Year. This column will highlight a specific holiday event in your district. Please specify a particular event or greeting you would like to include.

Winter Safety

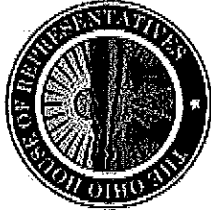
- As the temperatures start to drop, driving can become more dangerous. With car accidents on the rise nationwide, winter serves as an excellent time to remind constituents to always be cognizant when behind the wheel, especially as many plan to travel for the holidays.

In the district

- Whether it be welcoming a new business, applauding examples of job creation or explaining how a certain piece of legislation will benefit your constituents, this column will be targeted directly to the people you serve. We encourage your office to think of a topic and to provide Communications with enough details in order to write the column.

Henson, Libby

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:05 PM
To: Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Miller, Brad; Slack, Cora
Cc: Michalowski, Joe; Lenzo, Mike; Lundregan, Scott
Subject: ALERT: Becker Right-to-Work (Sending @ 1)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES *Majority Communications Department*

For Immediate Release:
December 18, 2017

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

State Representative John Becker Announces Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

COLUMBUS—State Representative John Becker (R-Union Township) today announced six Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments as follows:

- Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this amendment will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
- Public-sector Right-to-Work – This legislation is about freedom of association. The same as the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
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With these proposals, Becker asks Ohio's General Assembly to put all of them on the ballot for the people to vote on individually.

"Now that 28 states, and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states, have enacted Right-to-Work laws, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment," said Becker. "Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future."

Henson, Libby

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe
Subject: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf

Ohio House of Representatives



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

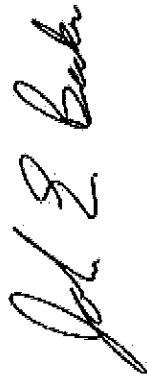
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6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.



John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

Henson, Libby

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Friday, December 08, 2017 10:04 AM
Subject: Meet the New LSC Fellows!
Attachments: 2018 Bios.pdf

Good morning,

Nick Derksen and I would like to invite you all to come up and meet the new LSC Fellows assigned to our caucus as they arrive following their House Majority Caucus placement this morning.

2018 House Majority Caucus Fellows (bios attached):

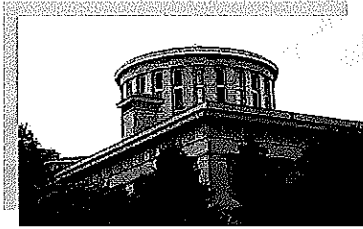
Jack Brubaker
Joseph Cicchillo
Sarah Crock
Michael Crum
Kate Millen
Hannah Stanbery

Please come give them a warm welcome at **11:30 a.m. on the 14th Floor in the Policy Wing.** Pizza will be provided!

Hope to see you all there!

Carolyn Best

Director of Communications
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger/Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Office Phone: 614.644.1739
Cell Phone: 740.815.9635



2018 LSC FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

Bryanna Austin
B.A. Political Science
Ashland University

Bryanna, an Akron, Ohio native, is a recent graduate of Ashland University. She studied Political Science and participated in the Ashbrook Scholar Program. While at Ashland, Bryanna also was a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Pi Sigma Alpha, Theta Phi Alpha, and the Pre-Law Society. She has future plans of becoming a lawyer. A former policy research intern at The Buckeye Institute, Bryanna researched policy regarding criminal justice reform and occupational licensing. Bryanna is a lover of diamonds. More specifically, she has a soft spot for a unique diamond--a baseball diamond. Since the age of three, Bryanna and her twin brother have been loyal fans of the Cleveland Indians. Bryanna's hobbies include shopping, spending time with family and friends, and going to Tribe games. She is excited to start the next phase of her life in Columbus, and she is honored to be a Legislative Fellow. And, as always, GO BUCKS!

Daivon Barrow
B.A. Sport Communication
Ashland University

Daivon recently graduated from Ashland University where he majored in Sport Communication. A native of Columbus, Ohio, Daivon has a passion for serving others. At Ashland University, after a season ending football injury, he started Brothers in Action. The goal of this organization was to improve the interactions and dialogue between all men of different races and ethnicities on campus. Along with being the founder and president of Brothers in Action, Daivon served as a tour guide, a student admissions ambassador, and the senior class vice president. Through his campus involvement, he earned a presidential internship with Ashland University's President Carlos Campo. Daivon enjoys staying active in his community and mentoring young men.

Nicholas Bartulovic
B.A. Political Science and History
Ashland University

Nicholas is a 2017 graduate of Ashland University. There, he studied history and political science with minors in music composition and philosophy. Originally from Hudson, Ohio, Nicholas is primarily interested in political philosophy and aesthetics. He has been involved in many statewide and national campaigns throughout the state of Ohio, all while serving as an intern and scholar at The Buckeye Institute and the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. Though having further aspirations to return to school and teach, Nicholas believes that the art of practicing politics well in the real world is essential to the health of our Republic. Additionally, Nicholas is a classically trained violinist and is

an avid follower of all things relating to Cleveland sports, and has spent the last two years building a library.

Jack Brubaker
B.A. Political Science
Wittenberg University

Jack is a recent political science graduate of Wittenberg University. He previously served as a page in the Ohio House of Representatives. While at Wittenberg, Jack was active in Fishing Club, Rotaract Club (student Rotary Club), Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, Judiciary Board, and the Alumni Relations Committee. Last fall, he was an intern for State Representative Kyle Koehler's re-election campaign. Jack has aspirations of becoming a lawyer. He's particularly interested in Energy Law and Insurance Law. Following graduation, Jack worked on a guest-ranch in Wyoming. In his free time, Jack enjoys outdoor activities such as fishing and Frisbee golf and volunteering with his church, Upper Arlington Lutheran Church. He is a native of Bexley, Ohio.

Andrea Bush
B.A. Political Science
Ohio State University

In December, Andrea will graduate from Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a focus in American Politics, making her a second-generation Buckeye. She entered college as a pharmaceutical science major, but found her passion in political science. Andrea's interest in the Ohio General Assembly and public service dates back to the middle of her college career when she served as an intern and page in the Ohio House of Representatives. Andrea currently serves as a constituent aide in the House with Representative Doug Green. In addition to her work with the GA, Andrea spent a summer working as an Outdoor Education Staff Member with the Lancaster Ohio Parks Department. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, watching movies, and listening to music. Andrea says she spends a lot of time and money looking for albums she will never find and buying books she may never read. Andrea is a Cleveland sports fan and calls Lancaster, Ohio, home.

Carla Carvalho
Bachelor of Social Work
Master of Business Administration
Master of Social Work
Florida State University

Carla was born in São Paulo, Brazil, and raised in southern Florida. She is an advocate and social worker interested in policy. Carla is a graduate of Florida State University, where she earned Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Social Work, and Master of Business Administration degrees. Her education and experience in both micro- and macro-level social work has shaped the way she thinks about government and legislating. Carla is passionate about accessible and affordable treatment for opioid addiction. She is very interested in criminal justice reform, race/ethnic studies, immigration reform, and trauma-informed care. In the past, Carla has been a mentor and a public policy

apprentice with The Children's Campaign in Tallahassee, Florida. Her hobbies include cooking, exercising, and reading and writing about social justice issues.

Joseph Cicchillo

B.A. Politics and Government

Ohio Wesleyan University

Joseph recently graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University, where he majored in Politics and Government and minored in Economics. He was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. Ohio Wesleyan brought him to Ohio and fostered his love for the state. While at Ohio Wesleyan, Joseph joined Delta Tau Delta Fraternity. Along with his fraternal involvement, Joseph was a government relations assistant for the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio. He has legislative office experience from his time serving as a congressional intern with Congressman Tom Price. During the summer of 2014, Joseph served as a campaign intern with Jack Kingston's primary senatorial campaign in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a huge *Game of Thrones* follower and an avid fan of soccer and video games. Joseph enjoys listening to music, with his favorite genre being rock.

Sarah Crock

B.A. Communication

Asbury University

Sarah Crock is a Uniontown, Ohio, native and a 2017 graduate of Asbury University with a B.A. in Communication. During Sarah's time at Asbury, she enjoyed working in several departments in such positions as ambassador for admissions and student writer for the advancement office. Sarah was also employed with the alumni and student development offices. In addition to spending a semester studying in Spain, she was heavily involved in the leadership of several large-scale projects for Asbury. Those projects included the Highbridge Film Festival and a 5K that raised support funds for a community member. Sarah first explored state politics by attending TeenPact as a high school student. In her spare time, Sarah enjoys performing and playing violin, a hobby of over ten years.

Robert Crum

B.A. Politics and Government

Ohio Wesleyan University

Robert is a recent graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, where he majored in Politics and Government and minored in Economics. During his time at Ohio Wesleyan, Robert served as a residential assistant which allowed him to develop administrative skills. He first gained public service experience during a church trip in the Appalachian regions of Kentucky. Robert has experience working in a legislative office from his internships with Congressman Pat Tiberi and Senator Rob Portman. He has served as a member of Ohio Wesleyan's Republican Mock Convention and a student-led improvisational comedy troupe.

Mark Finneran
B.A. Political Science
Ohio State University

Mark was not always interested in politics, but that would all change during his senior year of high school. It was then that his government teacher opened his eyes to the power of government over our daily lives. Mark graduated from Ohio State University in May with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. During his time at OSU, Mark was active in politics, serving as a finance staffer for statewide campaigns in the 2014 and 2016 election cycles and as a member of College Democrats. In 2015, Mark served as an intern in Senator Cecil Thomas' office. Since graduation, Mark has been employed at The Success Group as an office manager and scheduler. Outside of politics, Mark's passions include the Cleveland Browns, *Seinfeld*, and his dog.

Jessica Frank
B.A. English and Political Science
Xavier University

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Jessie has lived in Cincinnati for the past four years while studying English and Political Science at Xavier University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree this past May. Her studies led her to particularly focus on questions related to income inequality, political participation, artistic social transformation, racism, and feminism. While at Xavier, Jessie worked at the university's Writing Center, pursued her passion for social justice in the Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice, and served as a political science research assistant. Her prior work experience includes internships with the City of Cincinnati, the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, and the Ohio House of Representatives. This summer, she worked as a Seasongood Intern for Cincinnati's Citizen Complaint Authority, an impartial agency that investigates allegations against police officers and aims to improve police-community relations. When there is downtime, Jessie enjoys cooking, running, and writing poetry.

Greta Frost
B.A. Political Science/International Relations and Economics
Youngstown State University

Greta is a recent graduate of Youngstown State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Political Science/International Relations. Greta received the Leslie H. Cochran University Full Academic Scholarship at YSU, which required participation in the Honors College as well as completing at least sixty hours of community service per academic year. During her time in college, Greta completed internships as a Legislative Intern with Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-13) in Washington, D.C., as well as an internship with the Western Reserve Port Authority, conducting research on brownfield sites and analyzing their impact on property values in Mahoning and Trumbull counties. She also worked as Campaign Manager for Representative John Boccieri's re-election campaign in the fall of 2016. Greta has a strong interest in studying Arabic language as she demonstrated through her time studying abroad in Morocco in 2014. Her future plans include continuing to work as a public servant and attending law school in Washington, D.C. In her free time, Greta enjoys running and watching Netflix.

Ángel Guzman**B.A. International Relations and Diplomacy****Ohio State University**

Ángel was born and raised in Puerto Rico, where he grew-up with a strong passion for domestic and international politics, languages and cultures. He moved to Columbus in 2013, pursuing a college education at Ohio State University. While in school, Ángel quickly grew fond of Ohio and decided to get involved in organizations and communities within his campus and around the city. At OSU, Ángel participated in the John Glenn Learning Community and the Politics Society and Law Scholars, while also being involved in culturally driven groups such as the Latino, Puerto Rican, and Brazilian Student Associations. He had the opportunity to intern at the Community Refugee and Immigration Services and at the Center for Latin American Studies, providing ESL courses to clients from Africa and the Middle East as well as university services to Latin American students and faculty. Later, Ángel became especially interested in State Government through the Gluck-Asher Program, in which he interned with State Representative John Patterson, helping and serving Ashtabula County's constituents. This past May, Ángel graduated from OSU with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations and Diplomacy with minors in Portuguese and City and Regional Planning. Ángel's plans for the future include studying law and being actively involved in state government, both in Ohio and Puerto Rico.

Benjamin Kindel**B.A. Political Science****Kent State University**

Benjamin is a native of Parma, Ohio. This December, he will graduate from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Benjamin has served as a Congressional Intern with Congressman Dave Joyce as well as an intern with Shumaker Advisors. On his campus, he was active with the Dean's Student Advisory Council and the Mock Trial Team. Benjamin was not always interested in politics. While in high school, he was determined to become an engineer and join the military. After his first government class, Benjamin's plans shifted. His future plans include some advocacy work and issue lobbying. With his spare time, Benjamin enjoys running, hiking, and staying active.

Sarah Knepp**B.A. Political Science and Journalism****Miami University**

Sarah graduated from Miami University in May with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Political Science and a minor in Spanish. While at Miami, she wrote for the student newspaper and worked as a campus tour guide, among other things. Sarah was also actively involved in her sorority, Delta Delta Delta, where she served as recruitment director for three years and as a member of various other committees that helped organize events for the group. One of Sarah's most memorable moments at Miami was meeting Piper Kerman, the woman who inspired the series *Orange is the New Black*. Her favorite memory, though, was spending a summer in Washington, D.C., working on Capitol Hill through Miami's Inside Washington program. She is looking forward to being back in

the public sector and applying all that she's learned the past four years to help change lives in the State of Ohio. Sarah calls Toledo, Ohio, home.

John Markovich
B.A. Political Science
Kent State University

John was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. In May of 2017, he graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a focus in American Politics. John is a first-generation college graduate, which is something that his family is very proud of. While in school, he served as a Library Assistant at the KSU Library and as an Officer in the Pre-Law Club. John has worked as a server for over three years at Michael Alberini's Restaurant and Wine Shop and as a Camp Counselor at the Leonard Kirtz School. He has volunteered on several local and statewide campaigns and at various elementary schools around Youngstown. John's interest in politics grew when he participated in Kent State's Columbus Program in State Issues. He has written several research papers that include such topics as judicial politics, the history and relevance of Ohio as a bellwether state in presidential elections, and racial inequalities related to mass incarceration of minorities. In his spare time, John enjoys golfing, fishing, and biking the trails in Mill Creek Park.

J. Collin Marozzi
B.A. Political Science
Allegheny College
M.A. Applied Politics
University of Akron

Collin was born and raised in Rootstown, Ohio, located in Portage County. After graduating from Rootstown High School, he attended Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. During his time at Allegheny, Collin served as president of his fraternity and was a member of the men's golf team. Upon graduation from Allegheny College, Collin moved back to Northeast Ohio and spent a gap year working in public service. He decided to apply and was accepted at the University of Akron's Bliss Institute to pursue his Master's degree in Applied Politics. While studying at Akron, Collin spent a majority of the 2016 school year in Columbus working for both a non-profit and a U.S Senator's office. During his undergraduate and graduate studies, Collin worked for several political campaigns ranging from national presidential elections to local judicial campaigns. When he isn't working, Collin loves to golf and cheer on his Cleveland sports teams (as difficult as that is sometimes) and he is an avid reader.

Kate Millen
B.A. Family Science
Miami University

Kate graduated from Miami University in May of 2017. She earned degrees in both Family Studies and Political Science. After graduation, she worked as a professional recruiter with a healthcare firm. Kate was raised in Perrysburg, Ohio, and is a recent addition to the Columbus area. She has previous experience in the field of politics, interning for both the Ohio House of Representatives and for her

local Congressman. In her free time, Kate enjoys running outside on local trails and reading a good book. She also enjoys hanging out with her dog and catching up on the news, both local and from around the world. Her greatest belief is to work hard and to always "go for it," because no matter what happens, it was an experience to learn from. Kate is thrilled to begin this opportunity with the fellowship program. She looks forward to the immeasurable knowledge to be gained and to the ability to contribute her perspective to the tasks at hand.

Autumn Mitchell

B.A. Political Science

University of Toledo

Autumn graduated from the University of Toledo in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a concentration in Public Administration. Her most memorable moments during her undergraduate years include working as a new student orientation leader and mentoring incoming multicultural freshmen. Upon graduation, Autumn committed to a year of full-time service with AmeriCorps VISTA to implement Connect 2 Complete, a retention program focused on civic engagement. Autumn decided to join AmeriCorps VISTA because she believes that with the right resources and mentoring, any student can succeed at an institution of higher education. As a first-generation college student, Autumn overcame challenges and would like to inspire others to do the same. She desires to learn more about the policymaking process and how she can lend a voice in the future. In her spare time, Autumn enjoys playing volleyball in adult leagues, traveling with family, and binge watching Netflix shows.

Allison Schoeppner

B.A. Global Studies War and Peace

M.A. International Development Studies

Ohio University

Allison grew up in Athens, Ohio, and attended Ohio University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Global Studies - War and Peace and her Master of Arts degree in International Development Studies. During her time at OU, Allison did extensive work with the school's Global Leadership Center. First, earning a certificate in Global Leadership, and then serving as a graduate assistant. Through this work, Allison traveled to Ghana and Vietnam, working on various projects. Previously, she worked as a Community/Student Organizer for United Campus Ministries and as a Desk and Field Researcher for Global News Matters. Allison's future plans are to work in the non-profit sector. In her free time, Allison enjoys reading, traveling, and being outdoors, especially in water.

Mitchell Smith
B.A. Political Science and American Studies
M.A. History
University of Arkansas
Ph.D. History (ABD)
Ohio University

Originally from Bentonville, Arkansas, Mitchell earned his B.A. in 2009 from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville with majors in Political Science and American Studies and a minor in History. The following fall, Mitchell re-enrolled at Arkansas to begin an M.A. in American History. Upon completing his master's thesis, Mitchell began his doctorate at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, where he became a fellow at the Contemporary History Institute. While pursuing his PhD, Mitchell also worked as a teaching assistant, research assistant, and instructor. He has received numerous scholarships from both internal and external funding sources, including the Claude Kantner Graduate Fellowship from Ohio University and a Moody Research Grant from the Lyndon Johnson Presidential Library. The awards were used to conduct primary source research for his dissertation, which examines grassroots support for America's Vietnam War. Outside of the classroom, Mitchell was also an active participant in both Student Senate and Graduate Student Senate at Ohio University and worked with local charities such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters and the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

Hannah Stanbery
B.A. Political Science and M.P.A.
Bowling Green State University

Hannah is originally from Newark, Ohio, and is a current graduate student at Bowling Green State University in the Master's Program for Public Administration. While a graduate student, she is working on her thesis, conducting research for a professor and working for BGSU's Title IX Office. She also received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from BGSU, where she participated in Undergraduate Student Government as Chief of Staff and Sigma Kappa as the Executive Vice President. She hopes to continue her career in government for the State of Ohio. In her free time, Hannah likes to travel and spend time with her golden retriever, Freddie.

Sydney Waltz
B.F.A. Motion Picture Production
Wright State University

Sydney was born and raised in New Philadelphia, Ohio. As a high school freshman, she developed a love for "old" movies and anything that had to do with movie making. After years of delving into filmmaking, Sydney realized it was her calling, so she decided to pursue motion picture production as a career. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Motion Picture Production from Wright State University in May of 2016. After graduating, Sydney had the privilege to work on several feature films in Ohio and Kentucky, which allowed her to gain real-world experience in the industry. In addition, several of Sydney's college films are being shown at festivals around the United States.

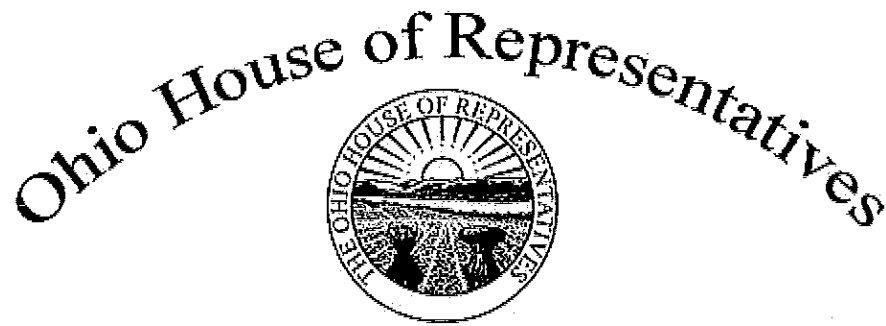
Through these film festivals, she has the opportunity to network with other filmmakers and focus on her career path of becoming the filmmaker she's always wanted to be.

Seth Wenrich

B.A. Film Studies

Ohio State University

Seth grew up in the Columbus suburb of Westerville, Ohio. Choosing Ohio State University was easy because his mother, who he affectionately calls "mum," was an alumnus. Seth began his college career studying computer science, but ended up combining his passions for the film world and technology to discover the big, broad world of video production. From there, Seth met many friends and learned a great deal before interning for WOSU, a local station where he met many great people, including a mentor of his, Chuck Oney. Post-graduation, Seth aspires to one day be a high-up editor of some sort, with a jaw-dropping suite, working for either the greatest television channels or even the greatest directors.



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

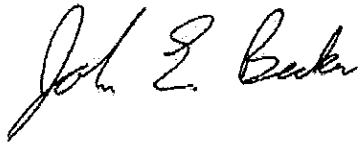
1. Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
3. Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
4. Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers’ wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers’ money on political activities without workers’ consent.
5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers’ bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio’s neighboring states

have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John E. Becker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

Henson, Libby

From: Rossman, Brent
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2017 10:43 AM
To: House_All
Subject: Goodbye!
Attachments: IMG_2029.JPG

Good morning everyone,

Since I started in the House, I've had the Ashbrook Center's pocket Constitution and Declaration perched upon my desk. It's a neat little booklet that also contains Lincoln's Second Inaugural, the Gettysburg Address, and excerpts from some of Thomas Jefferson's letters. I've turned to it many times for inspiration, and occasionally, for work purposes. I carried this same pocket constitution while I was in college, when I was just beginning to understand the depth of meaning contained in our Founding documents.

Now, I am excited to carry this same little booklet back to the Ashbrook Center to embark on a new chapter in my career. With it, I carry back a deeper understanding of the legislative process, and great experiences in politics. It still astounds me that we all have had the opportunity to help make law and improve the lives of 11.5 million people. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Ohio. These experiences will all help me with my new mission of cultivating good civics education in our country through the use of primary source documents.

Better yet, I'll also carry with this little booklet memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. I'll miss the House, but I won't be far away. Feel free to stay in touch. My cell is 419-561-0073 and my personal email is brossman4913@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Brent Rossman
Legislative Aide
Representative Wes Goodman
Ohio House of Representatives
District 87

Brent.Rossman@ohiohouse.gov
Office: 614.644.6265
Cell: 419.561.0073

Henson, Libby

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 10:28 AM
To: Miller, Brad; Slack, Cora; Adams, Alexandra; Westlake, Libby
Subject: Bill press releases
Attachments: WeeklyBriefing9717.pdf

Hey everyone,

Bill assignments are below if you want to get started on releases, however please don't send any drafts to offices until tomorrow. We can discuss further in our meeting this afternoon. Policy briefings on the bills are also attached.

Cora, I was thinking you and I could help with resolution presentation releases once the Clerk's office sends those over.

- **Session this week (Wednesday at 1:30):**
 - House Bill 133 (Ryan): *Disaster relief tax exemptions*—Libby (statewide/OLCA/district/template)
 - Senate Bill 37 (Hite): *Peace Officer training updates*—Alex (check with Chair's office)
 - House Bill 122 (Hambley, Rogers): *Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee*—Brad (statewide/OLCA/district)

Thank you!

Carolyn Best

Director of Communications
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger / Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Office Phone: 614.644.1739
Cell Phone: 740.815.9635



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Policy Department

Policy Agenda – Week of September 10, 2017

❖ **Tuesday, September 12th**

Caucus – 7:00PM

❖ **Wednesday, September 13th**

Caucus – 12:30PM

Session - 1:30PM



- **H.B. 133** – Rep. Ryan - Reported from Public Utilities (21-0)
 - *Exempts certain out of state businesses from taxes when working on disaster relief*
- **S.B. 37** – Sen. Hite - Reported from State and Local Government (11-0)
 - *Require the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission to develop and conduct a chief of police training course for certain newly appointed chiefs of police*
 - *Fire truck amendment*
- **H.B. 122** – Reps. Hambley and Rogers – Reported from State/Local Government (12-0)
Establishes a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances.

Snapshots:

House Bill 133 – Representative Scott Ryan

House Bill 133 intends to exempt out-of-state disaster businesses and qualifying out-of-state employees from certain taxes and laws with respect to disaster work on critical infrastructure performed in this state during a declared disaster.

This legislation will allow communications companies, utilities, and other infrastructure companies to rapidly deploy resources in the wake of a declared disaster and will prevent out of state personnel from being delayed by the state's regulatory and tax paperwork. The legislation is designed to accelerate restoration efforts and to get the state's citizens, businesses and infrastructure on the road to recovery at a faster rate.

The bill is supported by the Buckeye Institute, Americans for Prosperity, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, NFIB Ohio, the Ohio Telecom Association, and the Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association among others. House Bill 133 is a Buckeye Pathway bill as its intent is to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses operated in the state. The bill was reported unanimously from the House Public Utilities Committee without opposition.

Senate Bill 37 – Senator Cliff Hite

Senate Bill 37 creates an opportunity for local police chiefs to get additional professional training. The legislation will require the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) to develop and conduct a chief of police training course for newly appointed chiefs of police in villages, cities, and townships.

Under the bill, the 40-hour chief of police training course will be offered semi-annually through OPOTC. Beginning on January 1, 2018, a newly appointed chief of police would be required to attend the training course offered by OPOTC. The cost and expenses of attending the training will be paid for by the local jurisdictions, while the Attorney General's office will cover the cost of the training.

The bill received support from the Ohio Attorney General and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. Senate Bill 37 was reported unanimously from the House State and Local Government Committee.

House Bill 122 – Representatives Steve Hambley and John Rogers

House Bill 122 would establish the Regional Economic Development Study Committee to investigate the benefits of creating metropolitan economic development alliances.

The committee would study the features, benefits, and challenges involved in establishing metropolitan economic development alliances that would incentivize cooperation, enhance success, and provide for greater efficiency in economic development among participating municipal corporations, namely in metropolitan areas.

The committee may also consider the process and structure of such alliances and review legislative proposals. In completing its study, the committee shall consult with various groups, including county commissioners, township trustees, mayors, city council members, members of statewide and metropolitan organizations, and members of chambers of commerce.

The proposed committee would be bipartisan and will consist of members from the Ohio House of Representatives, the Ohio Senate, a designee of the Governor, academic representatives, and a representative from the Regional Prosperity Initiative. The committee will submit a report of its findings within one year of the effective date of the bill. The bill was reported unanimously from the House State and Local Government Committee.

Henson, Libby

From: Cho, Joy
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2017 9:18 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: RE: E-Clips for 9/1/2017
Attachments: E-Clips (9-1-17).docx

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, September 01, 2017 8:46 AM
To: Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: E-Clips for 9/1/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS

9/1/2017

AP Associated Press

GOVERNORS URGE KEEPING US HEALTH LAW'S INDIVIDUAL MANDATE

A bipartisan governor duo is urging Congress to retain the federal health care law's unpopular individual mandate while seeking to stabilize individual insurance markets as lawmakers work on a long-term replacement.

The Columbus Dispatch *Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper*

KASICH, HICKENLOOPER HEALTH CARE PLAN GETS SOME BIPARTISAN PRAISE

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican, and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, Thursday released details of a bipartisan effort to tackle health reform.

LIBERAL, CONSERVATIVE LAWMAKERS TEAM UP AGAINST OHIO MARRIAGE PENALTY

One of the most conservative members of the Ohio General Assembly and one of its most liberal have found a reason to join forces — on income tax reform, no less.

COUNTY, STATE OFFICIALS SEARCH FOR SOLUTION TO \$207 MILLION BUDGET HOLE

With another veto override looming, counties and transit authorities are trying to persuade lawmakers and the Kasich administration to find a solution to the \$207 million hole being blown in their future budgets.

ISSUE 2 CAMPAIGN FILES THIRD ELECTIONS COMPLAINT AGAINST OPPONENTS

For the third time, the Yes on Issue 2 campaign filed a complaint with the Ohio Elections Commission against the Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

JERRY SPRINGER CONSIDERING RUN FOR OHIO GOVERNOR

When tabloid talk show host Jerry Springer walks around town, his fans shout out "Jerry! Jerry!" They want to shake his hand. They want to take a selfie with him.

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO BILL AIMS TO ELIMINATE \$159 'MARRIAGE PENALTY' TAX

A bipartisan state bill would eliminate Ohio's so-called "marriage penalty" by allowing couples to separately file their state income tax returns.

OHIO GOV. KASICH, COLORADO'S HICKENLOOPER UNVEIL BIPARTISAN PLAN TO STABILIZE OBAMACARE MARKETS

A bipartisan group of eight governors, led by Ohio's John Kasich and Colorado's John Hickenlooper, today released a set of proposals they say would fix problems in the Affordable Care Act's insurance markets.

OHIO SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE O'CONNOR: GUNS, COURTHOUSE SECURITY NEED TO BE STUDIED AFTER SHOOTING

Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor on Thursday pushed for a discussion about whether those on the bench should be armed or wear bullet-proof vests, after a state judge was shot and injured outside a courthouse.

THE FIGHT FOR CONTROL OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLAYS OUT IN CLEVELAND: OHIO POLITICS ROUNDUP

We examine what the resurrection of the deal to overhaul Quicken Loans Arena says about the larger state of progressive politics. Ohio's top judge wants a review of courthouse security after a judge was shot. And State Rep. John Becker -- against all odds -- finds a Democratic backer for a bill.

THE ENQUIRER

KASICH AND HICKENLOOPER DETAIL PLAN TO SHORE UP OBAMACARE, BREAK HEALTH CARE STALEMATE

A bipartisan pair of swing-state governors hope to break the stalemate over health care, sending Congress a proposal on Thursday that aims to bolster the individual market, increase state flexibility and restrain rising premiums.

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STARK JUDGES WON'T TAKE WHAT THEY CALL STATE'S "BRIBERY"

A judge told the Stark County commissioners Wednesday that accepting nearly \$2 million in state money intended to discourage local judges from sentencing fifth-degree felony offenders to prison would be like accepting a bribe.

EDITORIAL: PILL LIMITS HELP, BUT OPIOID DEATH TOLL SURGES

New rules aimed at curbing the over-prescribing of opioid painkillers took effect Thursday in Ohio.

HOUSE CLIPS



9/1/17

Governors urge keeping US health law's individual mandate

Today

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A bipartisan governor duo is urging Congress to retain the federal health care law's unpopular individual mandate while seeking to stabilize individual insurance markets as lawmakers work on a long-term replacement.

The recommendation is part of a compromise plan that's designed to be palatable to both parties. It was endorsed by six other governors.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican, and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat, shared their plan in a letter to congressional leaders Thursday. They acknowledge that retaining the mandate may be a difficult sell for Congress, which has failed so far to pass a replacement health care bill.

"The current mandate is unpopular, but for the time being it is perhaps the most important incentive for healthy people to enroll in coverage," they wrote to House and Senate leaders of both parties.

Experts concur that keeping younger, healthier people in the insurance pool protects against costs ballooning out of control.

The penalty and coverage requirement, or individual mandates, were intended to nudge healthy people into the insurance market. They have consistently polled negatively with Americans. In an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll conducted in July, 48 percent of those surveyed favored repealing the mandate, while 35 percent opposed repeal.

Kasich and Hickenlooper's letter was signed by Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval of Nevada; Democratic Govs. Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania, John Bel Edwards of Louisiana, Steve Bullock of Montana and Terry McAuliffe of Virginia; and Alaska Gov. Bill Walker, a one-time Republican no longer affiliated with a political party.

After Republicans' failure to pass a replacement of President Barack Obama's health care law, Kasich and Hickenlooper teamed up to push for health care exchanges that would stabilize the market and assure affordability. Both took pains to quash speculation that their collaboration and public appearances suggested a bipartisan presidential ticket was in the making for 2020.

Hickenlooper emphasized Thursday that steadying individual markets is a top — and time-driven — priority. Addressing Medicaid expansion costs and other health care elements can follow, he told reporters in Denver.

“Is this going to fix all that is broken with our health care system? No,” he said. “If we can demonstrate success at stabilizing the individual markets, then we can move to the other parts of health care as well.”

Kasich and Hickenlooper also recommended that President Donald Trump commit to cost-sharing reduction payments to insurers and that Congress fund those offsets at least through 2019. Those payments reimburse insurers for providing low-income people with legally required reductions on copays and deductibles. If Trump follows through on threats to pull the plug, premiums would jump about 20 percent.

Kasich said the proposal satisfies the concerns of all parties studying the health care law.

“If you want to keep what you have, you can,” the Ohio governor said Thursday. “We’ve stabilized everything up front, but then over time, we open up the doors to innovation and individual plans, within guardrails.”

The governors support creating a temporary stability fund that states could tap to reduce premiums and limit losses; continuing to fund educational outreach and enrollment efforts under the Affordable Care Act; exempting insurers that agree to cover underserved counties from the federal health insurance tax; and supporting states’ efforts to find creative solutions for covering the uninsured.

The governors said states can pursue lots of options without federal assistance, but in some cases they are “constrained by federal law and regulation from being truly innovative.”

Kasich and Hickenlooper are expected to be in Washington next week to testify on their proposal. But congressional action on even a modest compromise is expected to be difficult following years of harsh partisan battling over the Republican drive to dismantle the health care law.

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Kasich, Hickenlooper health care plan gets some bipartisan praise

Posted Aug 31, 2017 at 11:14 AM, Updated at 6:17 AM

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican, and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, Thursday released details of a bipartisan effort to tackle health reform.

"On health care reform, we have to look forward, not back. We need to ask ourselves, how can we improve our current system?" Kasich tweeted this morning.

"This blueprint is the result of true and real compromise in practice. Republicans and Democrats CAN work together for the common good."

Hickenlooper, about the same time tweeted, "6 more governors — Rs & Ds — have joined in vital effort to stabilize markets, control costs & create a partnership...w/federal Govt. Lasting solutions will need support from all sides and we look forward to working together."

The plan was released ahead of hearings on possible health care fixes next week before the Senate Health, Education and Labor Committee.

Six other governors — Republican Brian Sandoval of Nevada; Democrats Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania, Terry R. McAuliffe of Virginia, John Bel Edwards of Louisiana, and Steve Bullock of Montana; and Independent Bill Walker of Alaska — signed on to the proposal.

In a letter to Congressional leaders, the governors outlined their plan, urging Congress and President Donald Trump's administration to "take immediate action to stabilize the individual health insurance marketplace."

Millions of Americans without access to health coverage through their employer or government programs like Medicare or Medicaid purchase insurance through individual markets.

The governors called for continued federal funding through at least 2019 of cost-sharing reduction subsidies to insurance companies that reduce deductibles and co-pays of lower-income people.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that not making these payments would drive up premiums 20-25 percent and increase the federal deficit \$194 billion over 10 years, the governors noted.

The governors also recommended:

- Exempting insurers offering coverage in under-served counties from the federal health insurance tax
- Allowing residents in those counties to buy into the Federal Employee Benefit Program, to give them more choices and access to the same health care as federal workers

—Keeping the individual mandate, “at least for now,” to prevent a rapid exit of insurers from the marketplace and for incentive for healthy people to buy coverage

—Creating a temporary stability fund for reinsurance programs or similar efforts that reduce premiums and limit insurer losses

—Giving states more flexibility in covering essential benefits required under federal law

“As we move beyond the immediate crisis, the real challenge over time will be to confront the underlying cost drivers of health care spending, and reset incentives to reward better care for individuals, better health for populations, and lower cost,” the governors wrote to Congressional leaders.

Sen. Rob Portman said he welcomed the input, and is interested in seeing what the costs are to taxpayers. “I think we should consider all of these ideas and others in the new Senate committee process that has begun to try to lower costs and stabilize markets,” the Ohio Republican said.

Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, applauded the proposal.

“Gov. John Kasich is right — we’ve got to stabilize our health insurance market, lower costs and make sure all Ohioans can get healthcare,” he said. “These bipartisan efforts are an example to all of us of how we can work together to come up with commonsense solutions.”

Kasich and Hickenlooper have have been working together for several months on a bipartisan fix for health care.

Liberal, conservative lawmakers team up against Ohio marriage penalty

Posted Aug 31, 2017 at 9:19 AM, Updated at 6:31 AM

One of the most conservative members of the Ohio General Assembly and one of its most liberal have found a reason to join forces — on income tax reform, no less.

Reps. David Leland, D-Columbus, and John Becker, R-Cincinnati, have introduced a bill aimed at doing away with Ohio’s so-called “marriage penalty,” where many married couples filing joint tax returns pay higher state income taxes than they would if they filed separately.

Instead of current law, which requires married couples to file state taxes in the same way they file federal taxes, the bill would allow a couple to choose whether it wants to file jointly or separately, depending on which produces a smaller tax burden.

This is not a new issue — Leland said he introduced the same bill as a freshman legislator in 1983. Becker also introduced a different marriage penalty bill in 2013.

“Ohioans shouldn’t be forced to pay higher taxes just because they get married,” Leland said, adding that House Bill 333 would allow more than 2.5 million Ohioans to seek tax relief.

Leland and Becker said a married couple in Ohio with each person working full time for minimum wage paid a marriage penalty of \$159 in 2016. Their bill already has 25 House co-sponsors.

In August 2016, Jessica Salerno of the Ohio Society of CPAs wrote: “Like an ugly junk car, Ohio’s marriage tax penalty has been around so long some people don’t even see it anymore. Tax practitioners don’t have that luxury, and say it’s past time to clean it up.”

A marriage penalty occurs from a combination of a progressive income tax system, where higher income is taxed at higher rates, and the taxing of married couples as a single entity. So when two people who each earn \$50,000 file separately in Ohio, the tax rate paid by each person will be less than if they file jointly as a couple earning \$100,000.

Most couples benefit from filing a joint federal tax return, so they also must file a joint return in Ohio.

The marriage penalty can impact couples differently, depending on circumstances. For example, a couple where one person earns the vast majority of the income often pays less in taxes by filing jointly than separately.

Ohio married couples may qualify for a joint filing tax credit up to \$650 — an amount not adjusted since 1989, according to the Society of CPAs — and it usually does not cover the additional tax owed from a joint filing.

Noting that all neighboring states either do not require married couples to file the same as their federal status, or they have a tax rate that mitigates the marriage penalty, the Society recommended in 2016 to a legislative tax study commission that lawmakers make changes. It proposed allowing a different filing status in Ohio, or creating a new tax table for joint returns.

The bill likely would mean a significant cost in state revenue, which has not yet been estimated. The timing could be an issue, considering lawmakers one month ago finished a tight state budget that had to be adjusted by about \$1 billion because of lagging revenue.

County, state officials search for solution to \$207 million budget hole

Posted at 5:48 AM, Updated at 5:48 AM

With another veto override looming, counties and transit authorities are trying to persuade lawmakers and the Kasich administration to find a solution to the \$207 million hole being blown in their future budgets.

The main issue, of course, is finding the money to do it.

"There seems to be a commitment to try to work on the problem," said Rep. Ryan Smith, R-Bidwell, who attended a closed-door meeting this week with Tim Keen, the state budget director, a trio of county commissioners and a transit authority representative from Dayton. The commissioners included former long-time state Rep. Ron Amstutz of Wayne County.

"When you're trying to figure out how to solve it, you have to figure out where you're getting the money," Smith said.

The federal government told Ohio it no longer could charge sales tax on services provided by Medicaid managed-care organizations. That meant that counties and transit authorities, including COTA, also will not get the share of the sales tax that they had been receiving from managed-care services.

That's a loss of \$207 million a year in local sales-tax revenue. Gov. John Kasich has been reluctant to provide much relief to counties beyond this calendar year.

Republican lawmakers led by Sen. Matt Dolan, R-Chagrin Falls, crafted a budget provision asking the federal government's permission to charge a higher franchise fee on Medicaid services, raising money to reimburse counties for five years. Kasich vetoed the measure, but the House voted to override his veto.

Senate President Larry Obhof, R-Medina, said the Senate held off on an override vote to allow time for the administration, commissioners and lawmakers to work out an agreement.

"We'll see if there's anything we can come up with," he said. "If there isn't, then we'll decide what to do with the potential override."

Participants in the meeting this week said there were positive discussions, but no hard decisions were made.

"I hope we create a path toward agreement, but we're not there yet," said Dolan, who led the meeting. "At the end of the day, everyone is going to have to evaluate the risk factor and recognize that something is better than nothing."

Cheryl Subler, policy director for the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, said she was pleased there was a general recognition that the \$207 million in lost revenue needs to be addressed.

Big questions remain over how much should be reimbursed, how it gets distributed, how long it is paid and where the state finds the money.

Obhof said he is not a fan of the franchise-fee proposal in the budget and likely won't vote for the override. But if a significant majority of the caucus wants an override vote, he said, he would allow it.

Senate Republicans, he said, do not share the administration's concern that asking to increase the waiver would jeopardize the franchise fee the state already was given.

"I would like to see some significant progress and proof that both sides are actually trying to work toward a common solution," he said before this week's meeting. "I wouldn't feel particularly comfortable if I was the counties or the governor rolling the dice on this."

Issue 2 campaign files third elections complaint against opponents

Posted Aug 31, 2017 at 9:34 AM, Updated Aug 31, 2017 at 9:51 AM

For the third time, the Yes on Issue 2 campaign filed a complaint with the Ohio Elections Commission against the Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue.

The reason this time was Yes on Issue 2 says the opposing campaign didn't register its political-action committee before making expenditures in 2016 and that it never reported an in-kind contribution of a report slamming the proposal which aims to lower prescription drug prices.

"There is an ongoing pattern of concealing contributions and spending by big drug companies," said Dennis Willard, spokesperson for Yes on Issue 2, in a statement. "They can run and lie, but they cannot hide."

The Vorys Report, issued September 2016, was bought and paid for by Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, an association of major drug makers that is entirely funding the opposition campaign, Willard said.

"What we don't know is how much that report is worth because the big drug company PAC failed to disclose it as a contribution as required by law," Willard said in statement.

Known as the Drug Price Relief Act, Ohio Issue 2 is an initiated statute that supporters say would help bring down costs for an estimated 4 million people in Ohio by requiring the state and several related entities to pay no more for prescription drugs than what is paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which typically gets about a 24 percent discount.

The other two complaints by the Yes on Issue 2 campaign were filed earlier this month. The first one said the opposition didn't comply with Ohio's campaign finance laws. In its second complaint, the Yes on Issue 2 campaign said the drug companies made donations in 2016 intending to impact an election without divulging the expenditure.

This complaint, like the others, is meritless, said Dale Butland, communications director for Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue.

"This is getting silly now," Butland said. "Every other week when they get bored, they file another complaint."

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

Jerry Springer considering run for Ohio governor

Updated 6:07 p.m Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017

Columbus – When tabloid talk show host Jerry Springer walks around town, his fans shout out "Jerry! Jerry!" They want to shake his hand. They want to take a selfie with him.

Springer, a Democrat who once served as Cincinnati mayor, is now weighing whether he can leverage that celebrity — along with the baggage of hosting a controversial show for 26 years — into a successful run for Ohio governor.

"He is in the throes of sorting this out and he can't take too much longer," said Jene Galvin, Springer's close friend and long-time collaborator. Galvin and Springer produce an online podcast together.

Galvin said Democrats from different parts of the state asked Springer to consider running for governor.

Springer abandoned a chance to run for U.S. Senate in 2004 because of negative views of his talk show, which thrived on bad taste stunts, brawls and controversy. Nonetheless, Springer is well connected in the Ohio Democratic Party, is a charismatic speaker, and can debate a wide breadth of issues.

The fact that a reality TV show host — Donald Trump — won the White House could work both for and against Springer's chances of winning the governor's job, Galvin said. "It's a double edged sword."

If Springer gets into the primary, it could be a crowded field. Four Democrats have already declared — Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley, state Sen. Joe Schiavoni of Boardman, former state representative Connie Pillich of Cincinnati and former U.S. representative Betty Sutton of the Akron area.

Former Ohio attorney general Richard Cordray, who runs the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, is expected to decide soon whether he'll resign his federal post and get into the race.

Springer told CNN earlier this week that "I haven't decided anything."

He is in Cleveland Monday for a Labor Day event.

THE PLAIN DEALER

Bill aims to eliminate \$159 'marriage penalty' tax

Updated on August 31, 2017 at 3:15 PM, Posted on August 31, 2017 at 10:35 AM

COLUMBUS, Ohio - A bipartisan state bill would eliminate Ohio's so-called "marriage penalty" by allowing couples to separately file their state income tax returns.

A married couple who each works full time and earns minimum wage pays \$159 more a year in income taxes than they would if they filed separately, according to the Ohio Department of Taxation. State Reps. John Becker, a Union Township Republican, and David Leland, a Columbus Democrat, said in a statement that House Bill 333 will eliminate the difference.

"Ohioans shouldn't be forced to pay higher taxes just because they get married," said Leland, who introduced the same bill in 1983. "This bipartisan legislation will eliminate the Ohio marriage penalty and allow over (2.5) million Ohioans to keep more of their hard-earned dollars."

People's state tax filing status must match their federal filing status under Ohio law. Ohio is the only Midwestern state with such a requirement, according to the conservative-leaning Tax Foundation.

The House proposal would allow couples to make the tax decisions that best fit their financial situation - whether it's a separate or joint return.

"In brief, the marriage penalty is simply the difference between the total income tax that a married couple will pay compared to two single people," Becker said. "Filing both federal and Ohio tax returns separate is often worse than filing both joint. Ohio's tax code is a lose-lose situation for married tax payers. This legislation fixes that."

Becker and Leland introduced the bill Wednesday. The next step in the legislative process is assignment to a committee, where it will be further vetted.

Leland said his 1983 measure didn't become law, but resulted in a compromise with then-Gov. Dick Celeste. Leland said he agreed to stop pursuing his bill, and in the budget was the creation of a "marriage penalty tax credit" in which a portion of the taxes for filing jointly were returned to the couple.

Leland said he wants the bill this time to give couples tax filing options.

Ohio Gov. Kasich, Colorado's Hickenlooper unveil bipartisan plan to stabilize Obamacare markets

Updated on August 31, 2017 at 1:08 PM, Posted on August 31, 2017 at 10:47 AM

WASHINGTON -- A bipartisan group of eight governors, led by Ohio's John Kasich and Colorado's John Hickenlooper, today released a set of proposals they say would fix problems in the Affordable Care Act's insurance markets.

Neither Kasich, a Republican, Hickenlooper, a Democrat, or any other governors have power to implement their ideas, but they hope to use their political heft to influence Congress. Among their ideas:

- Federally fund the cost-sharing payments that insurance companies have counted on. President Donald Trump has put the future of those payments in doubt, prompting insurers to propose much higher 2018 premiums to make up for the loss. Kasich and Hickenlooper say Trump should end the uncertainty, and Congress should appropriate the money at least through 2019 so there is no question about insurers getting paid.

Create a "stability plan" for states. This would essentially be a reinsurance plan similar to the temporary one the ACA had in its initial three years. Insurance companies could tap it when clients had unusually expensive medical costs. This is a common tool in other lines of insurance, and even the

Trump administration has said that it can hold down average premiums -- and therefore hold down the federal government's cost for providing subsidies that help people pay for those premiums.

- Cut insurers a break to spur competition in underserved counties, specifically, those counties in which only one carrier has agreed to offer ACA policies. The government can do this, the governors say, by exempting insurers there from an ACA health insurance tax. Those counties, primarily rural, are considered too risky or unprofitable in the eyes of a number of carriers. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS, 46.9 percent of counties in the United States are projected to have only one ACA carrier, limiting choices for 28.6 percent of ACA policy buyers.

There are 2.6 million people affected by those limited choices nationally, CMS says. On a map, their numbers look huge because of the way they and their rural counties are spread across the country.

In context, they represent about 29 percent of the total ACA market, which itself is relatively small -- about 10 million people, or 18 million if you count people who buy individual policies outside the ACA marketplace. Far more Americans -- 150 million -- get coverage from their employers, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. But to the smaller pool -- and as a political matter -- these options matter.

Other Kasich-Hickenlooper ideas:

- Give residents of the underserved counties more choices by letting them get health coverage through the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program -- the same program offering coverage to federal workers. Federal workers have a variety of choices, and carriers operating in Ohio include Aetna, AultCare, HealthSpan, Paramount and Humana.
- Keep the individual mandate for now. That's the ACA mandate that says you must either have health insurance or pay a fine.

"Until Congress comes up with a better solution - or states request waivers to implement a workable alternative - the individual mandate is necessary to keep markets stable in the short term," the governors said.

Kasich and Hickenlooper have worked together for months in hopes of stopping congressional Republicans from taking health coverage away from at least 22 million Americans, as the Congressional Budget Office says would happen under various Republican repeal or replace proposals.

The governors say the proposals listed above may not be a long-term solution, but if they stabilize markets and end uncertainty, Congress will have time to come up with something fuller.

As for what that fuller plan is, the governors propose giving states more flexibility to meet the ACA's requirement that all policies provide certain "essential" health benefits. States, which regulate insurers within their borders but must comply with the ACA, should be able to try "innovative approaches" that still meet the federal guidelines on this and other ACA requirements, the governors said.

They also want Congress to maintain the ACA's commitment to share financial risk with states and insurers.

Kasich and Hickenlooper sent their ideas this morning to Republican and Democratic leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Also signing on were Govs. Brian Sandoval of Nevada, Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania, Bill Walker of Alaska, Terry McAuliffe of Virginia, John Bel Edwards of Louisiana and Steve Bullock of Montana.

Sandoval is a Republican. McAuliffe, Edwards, Wolf and Bullock are Democrats. Alaska's Walker is an independent.

Congress, returning from an August recess, next week will start holding bipartisan hearings on what to do about the ACA. Republicans this summer failed to get enough votes for their own plans.

Hickenlooper and Bullock are among the governors invited to testify next Thursday, Sept. 7, at a Senate health committee hearing on stabilizing premiums and helping individuals in the insurance market.

"We strongly encourage that Congress and the Administration take immediate action to stabilize the individual health insurance marketplace," Kasich and Hickenlooper said in the text of their plan. "If there is a clear signal to consumers and carriers that the individual market is viable, then additional state-based reforms will be more manageable and we can succeed in preserving recent coverage gains and controlling costs."

The Ohio and Colorado governors don't always agree on issues but both used the ACA to expand Medicaid, to the chagrin of some conservatives. Their joint appearances and work together this summer prompted speculation about a bipartisan Kasich-Hickenlooper presidential ticket in 2020 but both governors have shot that down.

Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice O'Connor: guns, courthouse security need to be studied after shooting

Updated on August 31, 2017 at 1:55 PM, Posted on August 31, 2017 at 1:46 PM

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor on Thursday pushed for a discussion about whether those on the bench should be armed or wear bullet-proof vests, after a state judge was shot and injured outside a courthouse.

Jefferson County Judge Joseph Bruzzese Jr. has been released from the hospital and is recovering from injuries he suffered as he entered work Aug. 21. Police say Nathaniel Richmond, whose lawsuit Bruzzese was overseeing, shot him.

O'Connor spoke Thursday at her State of the Judiciary address at the annual Ohio Judicial Conference meeting in Columbus. Ohio's first woman to lead the state's judicial branch spoke to judges and attorneys at its 2017 annual meeting, which includes training and discussions of new initiatives being undertaken by the judicial branch.

Bruzzese will return to the bench after he recovers, O'Connor said. Bruzzese was getting an early start, she said, when Richmond shot him in an alleyway leading to the courthouse.

Bruzzese fired back and a probation officer ultimately killed Richmond, who was suing a housing authority over family members who died in a fire. Another Jefferson County judge, a former nurse, came to Bruzzese's aid before he was taken to the hospital.

"This incident reminds us of the real potential for violence that each of us faces as we are carrying out our duties as members of the judiciary," O'Connor told the judges. "Attacks like these are attacks on the rule of law, which is the foundation of our society. They are also attacks on the judge, his family and the judicial family. And they are a call for all of us to remember how dangerous our work can be and how all of us must take measures to ensure our safe and that of our family and staff."

After the address, O'Connor said there are obviously judges, such as Bruzzese, who are armed. The key, said O'Connor, a Republican, is that judges are trained in using firearms.

"What I would emphasize is the ability, the expertise, because with that would be confidence," she said.

Judges should discuss courthouse security and whether they should wear bullet-proof vests, too, she said. The Supreme Court has experts who advise local courts on the best practices for securing a courthouse. She expects calls to the experts to increase.

"This is such a multi-dimensional issue," she said. "From the safety of the exterior of the court - I think we're pretty good on the interior of the court. But this emphasizes the risks and the vulnerability of judges on the outside, traveling to their court. That's a whole area we can study."

The fight for control of the Democratic Party plays out in Cleveland: Ohio Politics Roundup

Posted on September 1, 2017 at 6:20 AM

We examine what the resurrection of the deal to overhaul Quicken Loans Arena says about the larger state of progressive politics. Ohio's top judge wants a review of courthouse security after a judge was shot. And State Rep. John Becker -- against all odds -- finds a Democratic backer for a bill. Read more in this edition of Ohio Politics Roundup, brought to you today by Andrew J. Tobias.

'The Q' deal resurrected? The Cleveland Cavaliers, citing delays caused by a referendum effort organized by opponents, announced on Monday that they were pulling the plug on a deal to spend more than \$180 million in taxpayer funds to overhaul Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland. But it seems like the deal might be back on.

Greater Cleveland Congregations, the group leading the coalition opposing the deal, withdrew its petitions on Thursday following intense negotiations with Cleveland political leaders, cleveland.com's Robert Higgs writes. The Cavs are "encouraged" by the development, and now will consider putting the deal back on the table, cleveland.com's Karen Farkas writes.

"We are very encouraged by this new development related to the private-public partnership plan to transform The Q for the long term," Cavs CEO Len Komoroski said in a statement. "We are reviewing the impact of this change and discussing it further with the County, the City and others."

Supporters, including Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish and U.S. Rep. Marcia Fudge, have said the deal will pay off in the form of construction jobs and a longer commitment from the Cavs to stay in Cleveland. Opponents, including the political organization formed by supporters of U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, don't like the idea of spending millions in taxpayer dollars on a sports arena used by a billionaire. Challengers to Mayor Jackson, who is running for re-election, have campaigned against The Q as an example of the city's misplaced priorities.

Thinking bigger: The fight over the Quicken Loans Arena deal is a microcosm of the larger fight that's playing out within different elements of the Democratic Party coalition, cleveland.com's Seth Richardson writes.

"On one side, the old guard - mostly entrenched elected officials and the business community who are more moderate and practical when it comes to governing. On the other, the progressives - new members and some members of the clergy tired of fealty to the centrists and what they see as capitulation to business interests."

"And caught in the middle are the party loyalists who just want to see Democrats do well."

Fudge -- a key player in the effort to revive The Q deal -- compared the insurgency movement to the Tea Party faction that emerged within the Republican Party.

"I don't think it's a good thing," she said. "I think it's one thing to have a different view. I think it's another thing to want to just destroy and to tear something up to get attention. I think if they want to be a part of the party, we want them to be a part of the party."

A view from the other side: Or is it the same side? This comes from Anthony Caldwell, public affairs director for the Service Employees International Union District 1199, the labor group that represents thousands of low-income workers in Cleveland.

Cleveland's elected officials now have blocked efforts on a pair of local ballot issues championed by the SEIU and other local activists -- a \$15 local minimum wage, and the referendum on the Q deal. Caldwell said this maneuvering from Cleveland's Democratic leaders may disenchant local activists and other progressive voters, leading to a depressed voter turnout for statewide elections in 2018.

"It's politics as usual in Cleveland," Caldwell said. "There is an elite class of Democrats who refuse to be accountable to the people who elect them. And they will stop at nothing to keep them from voting on issues that affect everyday lives. But they're also happy to accept their tax dollars for their salaries, as well as their votes when it comes to be election time."

Moving on...

Odd couple: State Rep. John Becker, a Republican and Rep. David Leland, a Democrat, have co-sponsored a bill that would end the state's \$159 "marriage penalty" tax, cleveland.com's Laura Hancock writes.

"A married couple who each works full time and earns minimum wage pays \$159 more a year in income taxes than they would if they filed separately, according to the Ohio Department of Taxation," reports Hancock. Becker and Leland's bill would end that.

The pairing is truly an odd one -- Becker has a legitimate claim as the state's most conservative legislator, while Leland is a former Ohio Democratic Party chairman.

Odd couple pt. 2: Republican Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat, led a group of eight governors that on Thursday "released a set of proposals they say would fix problems in the Affordable Care Act's insurance markets," cleveland.com's Stephen Koff writes.

Among the recommendations: Federally fund cost-sharing payments through at least 2019, so that insurance companies that rely on them can be assured they will be paid and cut insurers a break to spur competition in undeserved counties.

Besides Kasich, one other Republican governor -- Nevada's Brian Sandoval -- three Democrats -- Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania, Terry McAuliffe of Virginia and John Bel Edwards of Louisiana -- and one independent-- Alaska's Bill Walker, have signed on.

Cordray gets another national writeup: This one comes from Steve Eder, Jessica Silver-Greenberg and Stacy Cowley of the New York Times. The piece wrestles with the competing pressures the Trump administration faces in wanting to oust Richard Cordray, the former Ohio attorney general, as director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau without causing too much political blowback.

The article has an interesting quote from Dean Clancy, a Tea Party activist who worked in former President George W. Bush's administration: "The public does not share the G.O.P.'s ire toward the agency or its mission. It is an agency about protecting the little guy, and that is tough to oppose."

Cordray is a potential 2018 Democratic candidate for governor. There's speculation he may announce his candidacy this Monday, something that would require him to resign from his position.

Top judge wants courthouse security review: "Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor on Thursday pushed for a discussion about whether those on the bench should be armed or wear bullet-proof vests, after a state judge was shot and injured outside a courthouse," Hancock writes.

O'Connor spoke Thursday at her State of the Judiciary address at the annual Ohio Judicial Conference meeting in Columbus. Her comments came 10 days after Jefferson County (Steubenville) Common Pleas Judge Joseph Bruzzese Jr. was shot while walking to the courthouse for work.

Cleveland mayoral update: Cleveland.com's Robert Higgs caught up with the challengers to Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson to ask them how they'd improve community-police relationships. Read more here.

Jackson raises more money: "Jackson dominated fundraising in the Cleveland mayoral race over the last month, picking up more than \$201,000 in new cash for a war chest that already topped \$700,000," writes cleveland.com's Higgs.

"Thursday was the deadline for candidates to file their pre-primary finance reports with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections."

Arshinkoff memorial service set: The University of Akron announced Thursday that the service for Alex Arshinkoff, the longtime Summit County Republican Party leader who died earlier this week, will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 2, at St. Thomas Eastern Orthodox Church in Akron.

Coming up: Fudge will hold her annual Labor Day parade in Cleveland on Monday. We'll be there. So will former Cincinnati mayor / ex-trash TV host / maybe Democratic governor candidate Jerry Springer, who is being hosted by the Service Employees International Union District 1199. We'll also be scoping out Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and his challengers, and seeing how they're received by the crowd.

Speaking of Labor Day: Battleground Briefing is taking Labor Day off, but we'll be back on Tuesday. Enjoy your long weekend!

THE ENQUIRER

Kasich and Hickenlooper detail plan to shore up Obamacare, break health care stalemate

Published 10:45 a.m. ET Aug. 31, 2017 | Updated 5:32 p.m. ET Aug. 31, 2017

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan pair of swing-state governors hope to break the stalemate over health care, sending Congress a proposal on Thursday that aims to bolster the individual market, increase state flexibility and restrain rising premiums.

The plan — spearheaded by Ohio Republican Gov. John Kasich and Colorado Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper — would initially preserve and strengthen key elements of the Affordable Care Act and then give states flexibility to unravel some of Obamacare's coverage requirements.

In an interview, Kasich said the plan should hit a political sweet spot, because it includes Republican and Democratic priorities.

"Up front, you get (the market) stabilized," Kasich said. "Then set us free to ... do what's best for states."

The Kasich-Hickenlooper plan would:

- Keep the individual mandate, which requires most Americans to purchase insurance, until and unless policymakers can find a better incentive to get healthy individuals to get coverage.
- Explicitly guarantee the federal government continues to pay insurance companies subsidies that help them offer plans with lower deductibles and copays to low-income individuals. The Trump administration has threatened to halt those payments, which Kasich said would be a "disaster."
- Continue the federal government's efforts to promote enrollment in Obamacare by funding outreach efforts that encourage people to sign up for insurance on the exchanges. The Trump administration announced Thursday that for the 2018 open enrollment period, it would slash the ad budget to encourage enrollment by 90 percent and also trim spending on a program to help consumers navigate the sign-up process.
- Create a temporary \$15 billion stability fund for states to use to reduce premiums and minimize insurers' losses. The Kasich-Hickenlooper plan calls for funding that for at least two years but doesn't spell out how to pay for it.
- Spur competition in underserved areas by exempting companies from a federal health insurance tax if they enter markets where there is currently only one carrier.

Those steps would fix flaws in Obamacare and would likely appeal to Democrats who want to bolster the law and thwart GOP efforts to repeal it.

On the conservative side, the Kasich-Hickenlooper plan calls for giving states additional leeway in meeting basic coverage requirements and making it easier for states to seek waivers from the ACA's

regulations. The Trump administration is already taking steps to speed up and streamline the federal approval process.

The push to let states opt out of the ACA's coverage requirements is more controversial. Currently, insurers offering plans on the ACA's exchanges must cover 10 "essential" benefits, including substance abuse, maternity care and hospitalization. Conservatives say those mandates have made insurance unaffordable and over-regulated.

Kasich said giving states the flexibility to offer slimmed-down plans is a vital part of long-term reform. He said, for example, Ohio could nix the individual mandate and instead offer bonuses to young people to encourage them to sign up for coverage. And the state could offer younger residents catastrophic coverage that includes primary care and a medical savings account.

"To me, that's a legitimate definition of comprehensive" for a young, healthy adult, Kasich said. He said the governors' proposal "leaves in place some guardrails so we don't end up in the Wild West."

Most Americans get their insurance through their employers or through government programs, such as Medicare. But those who purchase insurance in the individual marketplace face higher premiums and fewer choices in part because the fate of the ACA remains in flux.

Kasich said he has not talked to GOP leaders in Congress yet, but he and Hickenlooper outlined the plan in a letter Thursday to top lawmakers.

"Continuing uncertainty about the direction of federal policy is driving up premiums, eliminating competition, and leaving consumers with fewer choices," the governors wrote to House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and others. "We ask you to take immediate steps to make coverage more stable and affordable."

Six other governors also signed on to the plan, including one Republican, one Independent, and four Democrats.

Whether Congress can move forward on the Kasich-Hickenlooper plan, or any bipartisan health care bill, is far from clear.

Many Republican lawmakers remain committed to killing Obamacare, a promise they campaigned on for seven years, and will staunchly oppose any legislative fix to the 2010 law. And President Trump has threatened to "let Obamacare implode."

But there are a handful of GOP lawmakers, in the House and Senate, who want to craft a bipartisan fix to protect those Americans most at risk of losing coverage.

"If your house is on fire, you want to put out the fire, and the fire in this case is the individual health insurance market," Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., chairman of the Senate health care committee, said in an Aug. 1 statement after the Senate failed to advance a pared-down ACA repeal bill. "Both Republicans and Democrats agree on this."

Alexander's spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Kasich-Hickenlooper plan. Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., called it a "good first step."

Kasich said he hoped the plan would appeal to Alexander and other lawmakers who seem committed to a less partisan, more pragmatic approach to health care. He said allowing the individual market to implode is "not moral" and the GOP has to do something.

"Some politicians want to run away from this," he said. But "it's going to collapse ... It's a disaster for people and they just can't ignore it and look the other way."

Alexander plans to hold a series of hearings, beginning next week, to discuss ways to stabilize the individual markets. Hickenlooper is among those scheduled to testify.

Senate Democrats say they hope to craft a bipartisan fix by mid-September. But it's not clear how quickly GOP leaders will move forward on health care, which will be competing with tax reform and spending bills for lawmakers' attention.

CantonRep.com
CONNECTING STARK COUNTY

Stark judges won't take what they call state's "bribery"

Posted Aug 30, 2017 at 8:02 PM

CANTON A judge told the Stark County commissioners Wednesday that accepting nearly \$2 million in state money intended to discourage local judges from sentencing fifth-degree felony offenders to prison would be like accepting a bribe.

"Essentially what judges are being offered is a bribe," Stark County Common Pleas Kristin Farmer said.

"You don't send (some) people to prison and we'll offer you a (sanctioned) bribe.' ... nothing good is going to come when money dictates justice."

The judges said that the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction in letters to the court suggested that state grant funding for the county's probation program would be cut if the county did not help the state cut its prison population.

"It was complete extortion," said Common Pleas Judge Chryssa Hartnett, who argued that the Ohio General Assembly's policy is, "We're going to treat them as misdemeanors, but we're going to keep them as felonies so it's all on the courts."

Inserted into budget

The judges said the new state policy, inserted into the massive state budget bill, would compromise public safety by emboldening criminals who believe they could commit certain crimes in Stark County without being sent to prison.

They said it violated the independence of the judiciary by taking away their ability to sentence certain offenders with extensive criminal records to prison. And even with the grant, it would cost Stark County at least \$1.48 million to house such offenders at the county jail, which is often at capacity, or for alternative sentencing such as a drug treatment program or supervised release.

These offenders would take up more jail beds, compromising the ability of judges to send less serious offenders to jail, argued Stark County Common Pleas Taryn Heath. She said it would take away a tool to persuade some to comply with drug treatment programs.

"No matter what our county is going to be less safe," said Heath. "The question becomes do we take money at the expense of safety."

In addition, the judges argued that the formula the state uses to calculate how much money each county gets from the grant doesn't take into account jail population. The result is that some counties like Lorain receiving as much as \$40,446 per affected offender and Franklin County receiving \$20,089 per offender while Stark County would get only \$6,857 per offender.

Answer is 'no.'

The commissioners and judges agreed to turn down the funding.

They will urge Stark's state legislators push to change or repeal a budget bill provision, passed in late June by the Ohio General Assembly, that starting July 1 will prohibit judges in 10 large "target" counties from sentencing many fifth-degree felony drug and other offenders to state prison.

The new law will not prevent judges from sentencing those convicted of fifth-degree felonies related to violence or sex offense to state prison.

The county faces a deadline of Sept. 18 to accept the DRC grant in full in return for voluntarily implementing the new policy early. If the county turns down the money now, it could still get \$980,501 for the July 2018 to June 2019 state fiscal year.

Possible lawsuit

The judges and commissioners said they will explore filing a lawsuit, perhaps with other counties, to try to block the implementation of the provision by challenging its constitutionality.

Farmer said the grants come with restrictions. None of it can be used to construct a new jail wing. No more than half the grant could pay for the cost of incarcerating the fifth-degree felony offenders, which she said would not cover the actual cost. And the court had no guarantee it would receive any more money after the first two years.

The judges asked commissioners for \$70,000 to fund new court employees to oversee offenders necessary to comply with the state law starting in July.

Farmer said that many of the fifth-degree felony offenders in Stark County in the past that were sent to prison have extensive criminal records, failed to make court appearances and have refused to comply with court-ordered treatment. Under the new policy, such offenders would have to be sentenced to the Stark County Jail, which many criminals prefer because they perceive the jail as safer, said Heath.

"And these people will cause more chaos in our local jail," said Stark County Commissioner Janet Weir Creighton.

Judge John Haas stressed that in many cases the judges aren't "hell bent on sending people" to state prison. But they need that option, in case the offenders don't comply with the terms of their sentences.

The jail's capacity is 526 inmates, and Stark County Sheriff George Maier said the jail cannot accommodate the expected 127 fifth-degree felony offenders a year that could not be sentenced to prison.

after June. He said the county might have to go to the considerable expense to house the inmates in jails outside the county.

Editorial: Pill limits help, but opioid death toll surges

Posted at 7:52 AM

New rules aimed at curbing the over-prescribing of opioid painkillers took effect Thursday in Ohio.

With state officials saying that 74 percent of those who died from drug overdoses in 2015 previously had received legally prescribed opioids, reducing the number of pills prescribed and the number of people receiving them are vital first steps in Ohio getting a handle on its overdose epidemic.

The guidelines come one day after the Ohio Department of Health said a record 4,050 people died from drug overdoses last year. That's up exactly 1,000 from the previous record, in 2015, even though deaths from prescription painkillers fell for the fifth consecutive year.

Gov. John Kasich said Wednesday that he wants to see that downward trend regarding prescriptions continue.

"There is some light shining through right now," he said, citing data that show overdose deaths from opioid prescriptions declined from 667 in 2015 to 564 in 2016.

He offered this stern warning to ensure physicians and other medical personnel maintain vigilance in monitoring how often prescriptions are written: "You violate these guidelines, and the medical board will come after you."

Members of the state's medical, dental or nursing board who violate the new guidelines could lose their licenses.

According to the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy, the rules, in general, limit prescriptions for an opioid painkiller to a seven-day supply for adults and a five-day supply for minors. The limits do not apply to chronic pain, cancer, palliative care, end-of-life/hospice care or medication-assisted treatment for addiction.

Dr. Mark Hurst, medical director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, said the number of opioid prescriptions has dropped by 20 percent since 2012. That statistic alone sounds impressive; what's stunning is the drop represents about 109 million fewer doses.

Ohio has made significant progress in shutting down the “pill mills” that helped to hook many Ohioans on prescription painkillers. When that supply dried up, however, people with addictions turned to cheap heroin and its potent synthetic derivatives. On average, 11 Ohioans die every day from drug overdoses.

In another effort to break the link from prescription to illegal opioids, the state in October will receive a federal grant to help pay for a campaign called “Take Charge Ohio” that will educate medical professionals and patients about alternatives to pills to treating pain.

Ohio is spending about \$1 billion each year on treatment, prevention and law enforcement effort to fight drug abuse. State legislators added about \$180 million in the most recent budget bill.

The statistics released Wednesday show some improvement in the number of deaths from prescription painkillers, and Ohio’s new guidelines on limiting access to the drugs should help push that number further in the right direction. But those are hollow victories if the overall death toll from opioid addiction doesn’t abate, and there’s little sign of that happening in the near future.

This is but a small step in a long journey.

Henson, Libby

From: Cho, Joy
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 9:46 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: RE: E-Clips for 8/31/2017
Attachments: E-Clips (8-31-17).docx

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 9:01 AM
To: Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: E-Clips for 8/31/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS 8/31/2017

AP Associated Press

LAWMAKER, CONSUMER CHIEF SPAR OVER 'POLITICAL AMBITIONS'

A fierce Republican critic of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is pressing the agency's Democratic chief to announce his intentions in next year's race for Ohio governor.

FENTANYL DRIVES ANOTHER RECORD YEAR OF OHIO OVERDOSE DEATHS

An average of 11 people died each day of drug overdoses last year in Ohio, officials said Wednesday as they reported yet another grim milestone in the state's addictions epidemic.

The Columbus Dispatch Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper

OHIO RECORDS 4,050 DRUG DEATHS, UP 33 PERCENT FROM 2015

Fatal drug overdoses keep spiraling in Ohio, with the powerful opioid fentanyl fueling a record 4,050 deaths last year — 1,000 more than in 2015.

CORDRAY KEEPS MUM ON OHIO GOVERNOR BID

Former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray on Wednesday tartly dismissed Republican calls to declare whether he would run for governor next year, telling a House GOP committee chairman that he has no more news on the subject.

KASICH HOPES PAIN-PILL LIMITS WILL REDUCE OPIOID ADDICTION

Ohioans and their medical-care providers face stricter limits on pain-pill prescriptions beginning Thursday as the state seeks to choke off abuse leading to opioid addiction.

REPUBLICAN MIKE GIBBONS TO AIR FIRST TV ADS OF OHIO'S US SENATE RACE

In an attempt to raise his visibility, Cleveland banker Mike Gibbons plans to air the first television ad of the 2018 U.S. Senate race during the opener of the Ohio State football season Thursday.

JERRY SPRINGER SAID TO BE TESTING RUN FOR OHIO GOVERNOR

TV talk-show host Jerry Springer is seriously assessing a run for the Democratic nomination for Ohio governor and soon will decide, said two state legislators who met with him last Thursday.

SUTTON ANNOUNCES NEW DEPARTMENT TO CREATE JOBS

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Betty Sutton on Tuesday unveiled a plan to create a new state agency aimed at spurring the creation of well-paying jobs.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

STRICT RULES IN OHIO PROGRAM DENY PAYOUTS TO THOUSANDS OF VICTIMS

An Ohio program that compensates crime victims rejects thousands of applicants each year — including victims of rape and assault and the families of those murdered — because of strict rules that disqualify people for reasons that include criminal or drug histories.

DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS JUMP 33% IN OHIO

Accidental drug overdoses killed 4,050 Ohioans in 2016, a 33 percent increase over the 3,050 fatal overdoses in 2015, according to a report released Wednesday by the state Department of Health.

MENTALLY ILL INMATES SET TO BE EXECUTED IN OHIO, GROUP SAYS

Ohio is planning to execute nearly two dozen men who have suffered childhood trauma, serious mental illness and intellectual impairment, according to the Fair Punishment Project at Harvard University.

OHIO TO START NEW LIMITS ON PAINKILLER PRESCRIPTIONS THURSDAY

Starting Thursday, patients coming off an injury or minor surgery will face strict limits in how many opiates they can be prescribed for their acute pain and doctors who ignore the new rules could face sanctions, state officials warned Wednesday.

THE PLAIN DEALER

ECOT SPONSOR WILL PAY BACK MONEY OVER TIME, JUST LIKE THE SCHOOL

The sponsor of the controversial ECOT online school will repay money the state says it owes - just over time, like the school will.

NEW RULES LIMIT OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS IN OHIO

Ohio doctors can prescribe only seven days of opioids for adults in acute pain, under new rules that begin Thursday. Children are limited to five days.

JERRY SPRINGER TESTS THE WATERS IN CLEVELAND FOR GOVERNOR BID

Former Cincinnati Mayor and famed television talk show host Jerry Springer is still testing the waters of a potential bid for Ohio governor.

OVER 4,000 OHIOANS DIED OF DRUG OVERDOSES IN 2016, A 33 PERCENT INCREASE

Last year, 4,050 Ohio residents died of unintentional drug overdoses, up 32.8 percent from 2015, according a state report released Wednesday.

RICHARD CORDRAY TO RANKING CRITIC: BUZZ OFF (BUT IN NICER LANGUAGE)

To the pressing question of whether Richard Cordray will serve out his full term or resign to run for Ohio governor, he provided an answer today: "At this time I have no further insights to provide on the subject."

RETIRING OHIO JUDGE SAYS HER APPEALS COURT SEAT IS NOT NEEDED, SHOULD BE ELIMINATED

A state appeals court judge is looking to go out with a bang - urging that when she retires in 2019, the state eliminate her judicial seat.

PRO-HUSTED SUPER PAC LAUNCHING STATEWIDE TV AD BUY DURING OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL GAME

A Super PAC supporting Republican Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted is launching the first major TV ad buy of the 2018 governor's race.

COREY LEWANDOWSKI HELPED JOSH MANDEL THIS WEEK, AS THE 'I'M-WITH-TRUMP' RACE CONTINUES

If the prize was the Trump mantle, Josh Mandel might have won this week's political round -- although a competitor with Trump credentials disputes that.

JERRY SPRINGER SEEKING ADVICE ABOUT POSSIBLE RUN FOR OHIO GOVERNOR: OHIO POLITICS ROUNDUP

Jerry Springer is seeking advice about a possible run for Ohio governor. And Ohioans are weighing in on President Donald Trump's Department of Labor overtime policies.

THE ENQUIRER

OHIO DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS MORE THAN DOUBLE, THANKS TO FENTANYL

Fentanyl and related potent opioids were involved in more than half of the 4,050 drug overdose deaths in Ohio last year, according to a new report by the Ohio Department of Health.

SHOULD CINCINNATI INVEST IN PRIVATE PRISONS?

Cincinnati's pension system has at least \$2.5 million invested in a company connected with private prisons, and some city leaders said that money should not support an "immoral" system.

YES, JERRY SPRINGER IS 'CONSIDERING' A RUN FOR OHIO GOVERNOR

Jerry Springer is considering a run for Ohio governor after all, one of his closest friends told The Enquirer Wednesday.

HOUSE CLIPS



8/31/17

Lawmaker, Consumer chief spar over 'political ambitions'

Today

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A fierce Republican critic of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is pressing the agency's Democratic chief to announce his intentions in next year's race for Ohio governor.

House Financial Services Committee Chairman Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, wrote to Richard Cordray on Monday urging him to reveal by Wednesday whether he planned to resign as head of the agency. Hensarling also sought Cordray's "categorical denial" that political considerations are influencing his federal work.

Cordray responded in writing Wednesday, saying he hasn't been influenced by politics and telling Hensarling that he has "no further insights to provide" on the timetable for his departure. Cordray noted Hensarling has posed the same question to him three times.

Hensarling's latest request followed speculation that Cordray, 58, could announce a gubernatorial bid over Labor Day weekend. He is scheduled to headline an Ohio AFL-CIO picnic in Cincinnati on Monday.

Many Republicans strongly oppose the independent agency established by Dodd-Frank, the landmark banking law created after the 2008 economic crisis that was designed to prevent future meltdowns. The agency has the power to scrutinize the practices of virtually any business selling financial products and services, such as credit card companies, payday lenders, mortgage servicers and debt collectors.

The GOP, with Hensarling taking the lead, complains that the agency's rules and actions stifle economic growth. A prime target is Cordray, a holdover from President Barack Obama's administration.

Some Republicans have urged President Donald Trump to fire Cordray, but others have wavered on the strategy. Firing him could give Democrats a shot at winning Ohio's governorship and make the race a referendum on Trump.

Already, eight candidates — four Republicans and four Democrats — have jumped into the contest to succeed Republican Gov. John Kasich, who is term-limited.

Hensarling has seized on media reports that Cordray is positioning for a gubernatorial run and called into question his motivations as consumer chief, a position that has allowed a Democrat some continuing policy influence in Republican-controlled Washington.